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SYRIAN, LIBYAN, PLO DELEGATIONS ARRIVE IN ALGIERS

LD302037Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 30 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Delegations of the member countries of the front of steadfastness and confrontation have begun arriving in Algiers to take part in the conference of the foreign ministers of the front due to be held here tomorrow. In this context, Mr 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Syrian deputy prime minister and foreign minister arrived here this afternoon to participate in the conference of the foreign ministers of the front, which will prepare the agenda of the summit of steadfastness. He was welcomed at the airport by brothers Abdelaziz Bouteflika, member of the Council of the Revolution and foreign minister; Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, minister-adviser to the president of the republic; and Boualem Benhamouda, minister of public works. At the airport, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam made the following statement: [begin recording]

[Khaddam] First, I would like to say that I am happy to be in Algiers, this fraternal country, to take part in the conference of the foreign ministers of the member states of the national front of steadfastness and confrontation. No doubt the fact that this conference will be held in Algiers constitutes a positive sign and, more than that, a considerable move in the march of the struggle of our nation toward the confrontation of the capitulatory surrender plan led by the president of Egypt. We are convinced that this conference will score a great success, all the more so since it will be held in Algeria, and since brother President Boumediene will be assisting the conference with his usual determination, sincerity and [word indistinct] in the work and struggle for the objective of our Arab nation. [end recording]

Also on board the plane carrying the Syrian delegation was the Palestinian delegation led by Mr Abu Mayzar, official spokesman of the PLO. He made the following statements: [begin recording]

[Abu Mayzar] The convening of the second summit of the front of steadfastness and confrontation in Algiers comes 2 months after the convening of the first summit. During this time there have been events and activities, the most outstanding of which was the activity of the front's member countries at both international and Arab levels. There have been comprehensive visits by President Houari Boumediene in the countries of the Arab east and to the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia.

No doubt, the convening of the second summit in revolutionary Algeria is evidence of the determination of the Arab nation and the will of the Arab liberation forces to stick to their positions of steadfastness against the capitulatory plan that is embodied by the carrying out of the American-Israeli policies and plans, all of which are aimed at imposing a settlement on the Arab nation and liquidating the Palestinian question through their instruments in the region and through the policies expressed by As-Sadat's visit to occupied Jerusalem and Begin's visit to the land of Arab Egypt, to Ismailia.

The convening of the second summit in Algiers at this stage will undoubtedly lead to important results concerning the strengthening of the national front of steadfastness and confrontation, the working out of a charter for the front and the adoption of measures and resolutions likely to consolidate the capability of the Arabs who are determined to stand up to all the harm intended for the Arab cause, to stand up to all the imperialist-Zionist schemes at this crucial and difficult stage. [end recording]

As for the arrival of Dr 'Ali as-Salam at-Turayki, foreign secretary of the Libyan Jamahiriyah, here is a report by our colleague Ahmed Fadhli:

At 1915 today Dr 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki, foreign secretary of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, arrived at Dar Baida airport. He was welcomed at the airport by brother Abdelaziz Bouteflika, member of the Council of the Revolution and foreign minister; Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, minister-adviser to the president of the republic; and Mr 'Abd al-Fattah an-Na's, Libyan ambassador to Algiers. Here is the statement made by Dr 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki at the airport VIP lounge to national and international journalists: [Begin recording]

[At-Turayki] First, I would like to express my happiness and that of the members of the delegation at being in fraternal Algeria [word indistinct]. I believe that the convening of this conference in Algeria [words indistinct] during the current circumstances when the Arab nation badly needs to follow this example set by the Algerian revolution in its struggle. The convening of this conference here will achieve important results. I believe that this conference, which comes in the wake of the first one held in Tripoli, will give the Arab liberation issue a push forward with a view to resisting the surrender solutions and plots being hatched against the Arab nation.

Foreign Ministers Meeting Opens

LD311300Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 31 Jan 78 LD

[Text] At the Al-Awarsi Hotel the work of the meeting of the meeting of the foreign ministers of the exparded Arab steadfastness front opened this morning under the chairmanship of Abdelaziz Bouteflika, Council of the Revolution member and foreign minister The foreign ministers of Syria, the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamairiyyah and the PDRY and Abu Mayzar, the official spoke man of the PLO, took part. The meeting followed the (?separate meetings) held by the leaders of the delegations.

Abdelaziz Bouteflika opened the meeting with a speech in which he welcomed the (?the leaders of the delegations). He noted that the conference of steadfastness in Algiers comes as an extension of the Tripoli summit conference in order to continue the work to strengthen solidarity in the face of the imminent dangers to the Arab homeland both in the east and in the Maghreb.

After pointing out the challenging nature of the current stage to the will of the Arab nation and the danger of events in the east and the dimensions of these dangers [words indistinct] the minister recalled the (?clashes) which the Arab nation has had to engage (?in order to defend its issue). It has exposed the nature of the racist-Zionist (?regime). The minister noted that [words indistinct] the Arab nation today faces conspiracies aimed at undermining [word indistinct]. On the other hand, he projected the dimensions of this (?ugly) conspiracy which goes beyond the borders of the Arab east to reach the Maghreb within the framework of a (?sinister) strategy that seeks to (?stifle) the aspirations of the people (?of) the Arab nation to liberation. [word indistinct] and dignity. [passage indistinct]

The conference of foreign ministers appointed Abu Mayzar as an official spokesman of the conference.

SYRIA WILL NOT ATTEND ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL MEETING

NC280848Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0750 GMT 28 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 28 January--The Secretariat General of the Arab League has received a note from Syria apologizing because it will not attend the 27 March regular meeting of the Arab League Council. In the next 2 days, the Secretariat General expects to receive similar apologies from Iraq, Algeria, Libya and the PDRY in implementation of the decision adopted by these states at the Tripoli conference. The absence of these states will not legally affect the meeting because the council session can be held even if attended only by a majority of member states.

The league council is expected to face a serious crisis in discussing the Lebanese proposal requesting the council's renewal of the mandate providing for the presence of the Arab deterrent forces in Lebanon for another 6 months beginning 28 April. Whereas normally league council decisions are adopted by a unanimous vote, there are some decisions the council can adopt by a majority vote. Article 7 of the Arab League Charter stipulates that unanimous decisions of the council, which has a membership of 22 states, shall be binding upon all member states of the league; majority decisions shall be binding only upon those states which accept them.

Since Syria will not attend the council meeting, this means that it rejects its decisions. In this case, Syria will not be bound to implement any decision pertaining to the Arab deterrent forces, and consequently the presence of the Syrian contingent with these forces will be illegal.

Official Gives Details on Meeting

NC291600Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1455 GMT 29 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 29 January--The assistant Arab League secretary general, Dr Sayyid Nawfal, has denied newspaper reports about apologies from Iraq, Algeria, the PDRY and the PLO for not attending the meetings of the Arab League Council on 27 March. Nawfal said that so far the the Arab League has not sent invitations to this session. All that has taken place, he said, is that the Arab League Secretariat General has asked the member states to submit the subjects they wish to submit to the forthcoming session of the Arab League Council and has set 10 February as the deadline for this submission so as to be able to send these subjects to the governments of the member states and discuss them 6 weeks before the date of the council meeting.

The assistant Arab League secretary general said the Secretariat General has received replies from some states which contain proposals for discussion of specific topics at the Arab League Council. He added that the secretariat received a memorandum from Syria apologizing for the fact it will not attend.

Nawfal said that the secretariat general has made a number of contacts with the Syrian Government to persuade it to attend in order to insure that the league's charter is fulfilled and that the member states fulfill their commitments by attending the two Arab League ordinary sessions in March and September every year.

LEBANESE NATIONALISTS, PALESTINIAN LEADERS MEET

JN281724Y Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 28 Jan 78 JN

[Text] The leaders of the Palestinian resistance and the central council of the Lebanese nationalist movement held a joint meeting today in the coastal town of Sidon after last night's clashes in the town. The conferees discussed the means to insure the control and containment of any possible incidents. They also decided to destroy the cause of tension in the town.

It should be recalled that last night clashes in Sidon resulted in a great number of wounded in addition to material losses. The Palestinian resistance has warned against a new battle which is being planned by the rightists and which is aimed at the Palestinian presence in Lebanon.

The Palestinian news agency has said that the intentions of the rightists have become clear now that they have received a new shipment of arms through the port of Juniyah near Beirut. The agency said that another ship will arrive there next week from the FRG. The shipment is in accordance with a recent agreement to this effect reached between Bashir al-Jumayyil, the military leader of the rightist Phalangist Party, and the FRG Government.

PALESTINIAN LEADERS MEET UNDER 'ARAFAT

JN301500Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1400 GMT 30 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, met last night with the secretaries general of the Palestinian revolution groups. At the meeting, there was a discussion of the various current political and military developments on the Palestinian, Arab and international levels. The results of the Palestinian-Syrian meeting held recently in the Syrian capital, Damascus, were also discussed.

The conferees reviewed the steps which should be taken to strengthen the steadfastness and confrontation front through a unified Palestinian stand to be adopted by the Palestinian delegation to the steadfastness and confrontation summit conference to be held in Algiers on 3 February. The conferees also discussed the situation in southern Lebanon in the wake of the isolationist acts of aggression, and suitable decisions were taken.

The meeting also dealt with means for safeguarding the link between the masses and the Palestinian revolution forces, as well as the Lebanese nationalist movement in southern Lebanon, by striking with a mailed fist against infiltrators who are trying to break this link, which has enabled the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese nationalist movement to stand fast against the recurrent Zionist and isolationist attacks.

'ARAFAT SENDS LETTERS TO ARAB KINGS, LEADERS

JN271420Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1400 GMT 27 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar recently sent letters to the Arab kings and leaders. The letters were handed over to the Arab embassies in Beirut to be conveyed to the Arab kings and leaders. The radio correspondent has learned that the letters deal with the latest develcpments in the Palestinian cause and the serious developments in the area.

EGYPTIAN VICE PRESIDENT CONTINUES PENINSULA VISIT

Arrives Kuwait 30 Jan

[NC301558Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1540 GMT 30 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 20 January--Egyptian Vice President Husni Mubarak arrived in Kuwait from Teheran at 1750 today. He was received at the airport by Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad and other senior Kuwaiti officials as well as the Egyptian ambassador in Kuwait, Mamduh 'Abd ar-Razzaq.

Kuwaiti ruler Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah is scheduled to meet with Husni Mubarak at 0900 tomorrow. During the meeting, Mubarak will hand the ruler a message from President Anwar as-Sadat on the latest developments in the current situation and the Egyptian political moves. Mubarak will leave Kuwait at 1000 tomorrow, Tuesday.

Meets Amir of Kuwait

NC310855Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 31 Jan 78 NC

[Text] According to our radio correspondent in Kuwait, His Highness Amir Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah received Vice President Muhammad Husni Mubarak at 0800 today. The meeting was attended by Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Jabir as-Sabah, the private adviser of his highness the amir of the State of Kuwait, and by Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah. The meeting was also attended by Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Dr Usamah al-Baz, and by Mamduh 'Abd ar-Razzaq, Egypt's ambassador to Kuwait.

Husni Mubarak gave His Highness Amir Jabir al-Ahmad a message from President Anwar as-Sadat. The message deals with the situation in the Middle East and the efforts the Arab Republic of Egypt is exerting to achieve a comprehensive and just settlement to the Middle East crisis. The vice president had already met this morning with Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad. The meeting lasted about 30 minutes. Another meeting was held between Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Rashid ar-Rashid. The two men discussed Egypt's efforts in the Arab and international fields to achieve peace in the Middle East.

The vice president will make a 15-minute stopover in Riyadh, after which he will proceed to Jordan to conclude the tour he began last Saturday. While in Jordan the vice president will hold a final round of consultations with His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan.

Leaves Kuwait 31 Jan

NC310940Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0845 GMT 31 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 31 January--Egyptian Vice President Husni Mubarak left Kuwait for Amman this morning to pay a short visit to Jordan at the end of his current tour. Before departing from Kuwait airport, Husni Mubarak said that the Arab leaders with whom he has met have shown understanding of the current peace efforts. He stressed that Egypt will continue its peaceful initiative until the end. He said: We are optimistic about the establishment of peace, but if the peace we seek is not established, we will resort to other methods and war could be one of them.

Husni Mubarak further said that he explained to the Arab leaders and officials with whom he met during his current tour the developments of the situation and the political moves related to the various issues since the initiative of the contacts after President as-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem, which included the Ismailia meeting, the Political Committee meetings in Jerusalem and U.S. President Carter's invitation to President as-Sadat to visit the United States. The vice president pointed out in his statement that during his tour he had sensed that Egypt's peace efforts have made an excellent impression and that the Arab leaders understand the current developments. Husni Mubarak reaffirmed that Egypt still believes the United States holds 99 percent of the cards as far as a solution to the Middle East crisis is concerned, since it is the one which supplies Israel with everything from a loaf of bread to aircraft.

Husni Mubarak conveyed to the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad, a personal message from President as-Sadat. The message deals with the latest developments in the situation in the area and the efforts which Egypt is exerting to accelerate peace. The vice president was seen off at the airport by Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn and Egypt's ambassador in Kuwait, Mamduh 'Abd ar-Razzaq.

KUWAIT

MINISTER AL-AZIZ HUSAYN: AS-SADAT U.S. VISIT IMPORTANT

NC291206Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1118 GMT 29 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 29 January--'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn, Kuwaiti minister of state for cabinet affairs, has stressed that Egyptian President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat's forthcoming visit to the United States will be of special importance in relation to the peace talks. He said that Kuwait is awaiting further information on the matter. The Kuwaiti minister told reporters today that consultations and coordination are continuing among the Arab states, particularly between Kuwait and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, but that no practical steps will be taken to bridge the split in the ranks before further clarification is received.

Meanwhile, 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn revealed that the amir of Kuwait yesterday received a cable from His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal of Jordan and another cable from King Hassan II of Morocco regarding the current Arab situation and efforts to unify Arab action and arrive at the desired results. He also revealed that two messages were exchanged between the amir of Kuwait and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat regarding Arab and international moves to preserve the rights of the Palestinian people and regarding Kuwait's stand in these matters.

FOREIGN MINISTER CALLS FOR ARABS TO UNITE

NC281916Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1803 GMT 28 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Riyadh, 28 January--Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir has urged the Arabs to unite their ranks during the current stage through which the Middle East issue is passing and to discard their differences. In a statement published by the Saudi Paper AL-JAZIRAH today, the Kuwaiti minister ruled out the possibility of holding a special meeting of Arab foreign ministers or a limited meeting of the foreign ministers of the support and confrontation states, saying that the circumstances are inappropriate for holding such meetings at present.

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS DISCUSSES VARIETY OF ISSUES

LD2920047 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 Jan 78 LD

[Excerpts] The Council of Ministers held its weekly session this morning under the chairmanship of Shaykh Jabir al-'Ali as-Sabah, acting prime minister and minister of information.

'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn, minister of state for cabinet affairs, said following the meeting that the council began its work by reviewing the messages addressed to his highness the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah. These included a message from King Husayn dealing with the current Arab situation and the importance of unified Arab action, and a message from King Hassan II on the current Arab situation, current activity and the need for unified Arab action to attain the desired results. Another message came from Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id of Oman on the importance of preserving wild animal and plant life in the Arabian Peninsula and the need for cooperation among the area countries in this regard. The messages also included one from the president of Bangladesh on the bilateral relations between the two countries and the means for bolstering them, and the two messages exchanged between the amir of Kuwait and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat concerning Arab and international moves for safeguarding the rights of Palestinian Arabs and Kuwait's attitude in this regard.

The minister of state said that on the directives of the amir of Kuwait the council discussed reports on urgent development plans. 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn said that the council was informed of the visit to Kuwait tomorrow by Egyptian Vice President Husni Mubarak. The council heard a report from Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir as-Sabah on Arab Political affairs and the latest developments. It also heard a report from the foreign minister on last week's visit to Kuwait by Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal, which concerned an exchange of views on bilateral relations and the latest developments in the Arab area. 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn said that the council approved Kuwait's participation in a number of conferences, including the gulf information ministers conference which will be held in Baghdad next month. He said that Under Secretary of the Information Ministry Sa'dun Muhammad al-Jasim will head the Kuwaiti delegation to the conference.

REQUEST LIKELY FOR HEAVY OIL PRICE REDUCTION

LD2622457 Kuwait AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 25 Jan 78 p 6 LD

[Excerpt] It appears that what the MIDDLE EAST ECONOMIC SURVEY journal reported on 23 January--that Kuwait will ask for a new reduction in oil prices by 5 cents per barrel--is not just a rumor but based on some truth.

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM yesterday asked Dr Muhammad Nusayr, assistant under secretary for economic affairs at the Oil Ministry, about the extent of the truth in this report. He declined to confirm or deny the report. He simply said that he has no knowledge of whether the government is going to ask for a reduction.

Therefore, we can say that the request for a reduction is likely for more than one reason. The most important reason is that there is much greater demand for light oil than for heavy oil because of the high sulfur content of heavy oil. Another important reason is the presence in the international market of more than 2 million barrels of oil daily as well as the increase in oil reserves in the industrial states which have built up supplies to last 90 days or more. Yet another important reason is the request by international companies buying the oil for a reduction in their prices and their resorting to some kind of hidden pressure to achieve this goal. Added to this is the important fact that OPEC countries are lacking in marketing experience.

A reduction of prices, if approved, will affect only heavy oil as there is no problem in marketing light oil. The question of oil prices in general and of heavy crude oil prices in particular is still one of the most significant problems causing disputes among the OPEC countries and threatening their unity. For this reason the five OPEC countries concerned with the problem of heavy oil--Kuwait, Iraq, Venezuela, Iran and Qatar--have agreed to hold the first conference for their oil ministers on 1 February in Geneva in an effort to find compromise solutions for the problem instead of raising it every year and fixing prices annually or semiannually.

SAUDI ARABIA

RIYADH COMMENTS ON U.S. AMBASSADORS' MEETING

LD282220Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 28 Jan 78 LD

[Unattributed commentary]

[Summary] The meeting of U.S. ambassadors in Amman today attracted the attention of observers. What does the holding of this conference at this time signify? Does it mean that the United States intends to take a new step which will give peace efforts in the region a new impetus, or is it merely an exchange of views as was reported by the U.S. Embassy in Amman?

What is important here is that the United States at this time in particular shoulders a historic responsibility. Thus, the United States should take the following steps: First, "the United States should reevaluate its stand toward the Zionist entity. The U.S. attitude of completely supporting and absolutely backing Israel has helped Israel to carry on with its arrogance and intransigence and reject peace efforts in one way or another." "Second, because of its interests in the Arab region, the United States should display an interest in the problem which is the core of the Middle East crisis, the Palestinian problem, with all its political and humanitarian aspects. A solution to the Middle East problem which does not include this dimension will fail. Therefore, we hope that the meeting of U.S. ambassadors has helped them to clarify the situation fully and that it has provided new facts to them which can prevent the deterioration of the current situation. If the United States is able to truly respond to developments and direct them in accordance with the general interest of the peoples of the region it will be like a clever captain who sailed through a dangerous crisis." "Perhaps this will be a real test of American intentions toward the peace efforts in all their dimensions. The final attitude will in the end define the course of events [words indistinct]. There is no doubt that there is not one U.S. official who is ready to risk the reputation of the United States especially after it had gained the trust of all sides in the region [words indistinct].

UAE

CURRENCY REVALUED UPWARD IN RELATION TO DOLLAR

NC280948Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0850 GMT 28 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 28 January--Effective today the UAE dirham has been revalued upward by three fils in relation to the dollar. The value of the dollar is now 390 fils for exchanges of more than 20,000 dirham and 391 fils for exchanges of less than this sum--an increase of 3/4 percent.

The UAE press has reported that the increase varies between 5 and 7 percent. The QNA correspondent in Abu Dhabi has learned other increases are expected in the next few days since the State Currency Board released a statement the day before yesterday to the effect that the rate of exchange of foreign currencies in relation to the UAE dirham will be adjusted to reflect shifts in the rate of exchange of other foreign currencies. In addition, a daily bulletin showing the selling and buying prices of currencies will be issued as of today.

A responsible source in the Currency Board has stated that the new price of the dirham will produce several benefits for the state, including a relative stability in prices of commodities in general and a reduction in the rate of inflation in the country. The revaluation will affirm the state's desire to preserve the value of the local currency against foreign currencies which are dropping in value. Some sources in the Currency Board have indicated that any amendment in the rate of exchange in relation to the dollar does not mean disengaging the dirham from the dollar, but such a disengagement is not ruled out as it will link the value of the dirham with the special drawing rights system. The value of the dirham in relation to the dollar was 4 dirhams to the dollar in 1976; it then dropped to 395 fils in 1977 and then to 393 fils to a dollar.

YEMEN--PDRY

PRIME MINISTER TO VISIT USSR IN FEBRUARY

LD271932Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 27 Jan 78 LD/EA

[Summary] The Council of Ministers yesterday approved a report from Prime Minister 'Ali Nasir Muhammad Hasani on the results of his recent visits to Syria, the GDR, Bulgaria, Hungary and Iraq. It has been announced that Prime Minister Hasani will visit the USSR at the beginning of next month.

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON HASANI VISIT TO HUNGARY

For a Budapest NEPSZABADSAG report on the communique issued on the 19-24 January visit to Hungary by PDRY Prime Minister 'Ali Nasir Muhammad Hasani, see the Hungary section of the 30 January Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT.

Hasani Interviewed in Budapest

LD300026Y Budapest Domestic Television Service in Hungarian 1800 GMT 29 Jan 78 LD

[Alajos Chrudinak interview with PDRY Prime Minister 'Ali Nasir Muhammad Hasani; date and place of interview not specified--recorded, Hasani answers in Arabic fading into Hungarian translation]

[Text] [Question] Some people believe that the Jerusalem visit of Egyptian President as-Sadat and the bilateral separate talks carried out under the aegis of the United States have brought a turning point in the Middle East crisis. Do you agree with this point of view?

[Answer] The Middle East crisis is extremely complicated, dangerous and full of tensions. This is so because the imperialist, Zionist plans, with the approval of Arab reaction, seek to eliminate the Arab liberation movement, the Palestinian resistance, and seek to strengthen American influence in the area. The Jerusalem visit of the Egyptian president further complicated the situation. As-Sadat thought that this visit could solve the Middle East crisis at a stroke.

The real situation certainly has not justified this belief. The failure of As-Sadat's initiative has proved that the Jerusalem talks, which were called a comedy by As-Sadat himself, can solve nothing. A lasting and just peace in the Middle East can only come about on the basis of the recognition of the national rights of the Palestinians, the creation of the independent national state and the withdrawal of Israel from the territories occupied in 1967. In my opinion the Middle East problem will never be solved by anyone who bets everything on one card--the United States--while abandoning his Arab partners. We in the PDRY believe that the Middle East question will not have a reassuring solution if the Soviet Union is excluded from the settlement.

[Question] It seems at present that As-Sadat's initiative has collapsed. He ordered his delegation to return from Jerusalem and said that Israel was only play-acting. What will happen now that As-Sadat's desperate attempts have failed? What can we expect to happen in the Middle East after all this?

[Answer] The truth is that I do not believe that significant changes have occurred in the Israeli and Egyptian positions. The halt in the Israeli-Egyptian separate talks--and this must be said very clearly--is used by As-Sadat to try to strengthen his weak position and to distract Arab public opinion. He is trying to overcome somehow the serious position in which he finds himself.

[Question] This means, then, that this is only another Egyptian-Israeli-American maneuver to gain time by temporarily suspending the negotiations. Is this what you are hinting at? Is it possible, then, that the bilateral negotiations will be renewed?

[Answer] I heard that As-Sadat said in his speech in the Egyptian Parliament that the door to the negotiations was open.

[Question] The PDRY participated in the Tripoli meeting of those Arab countries which reject this sort of policy. What concrete steps are intended by the progressive Arab countries which formed a front in Tripoli under the present circumstances, when As-Sadat is pretending to reverse his course?

[Answer] Yes, we participated in the Tripoli summit, because be believe in the need for the unity of the progressive Arab forces, because we know that only this unity will enable us to face up to the challenges which have resulted from As-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem. We in Democratic Yemen have determined that on the basis of the decisions of the Tripoli summit we would harmonize our efforts to prevent the separate agreements prepared behind the backs of the Arab peoples.

[Question] Should I understand by this that perhaps Iraq will also join you at the next summit, which will be held next week?

[Answer] The PDRY and the Algerian Republic are endeavoring to find a solution for the conflicts between Syria and Iraq. In our opinion these differences are of secondary importance.

[Question] In recent years we have found that the Middle East crisis has begun to spread to other areas, continents--I think of Africa primarily. I understand that Mengistu and Siad Barre have met in Democratic Yemen. Do you think that in the present situation there is a possibility of a peaceful settlement? Can there be a different solution?

[Answer] As a result of our strategic position, the PDRY itself has an influence on the developments which have occurred in the Horn of Africa and which are occurring there. But these events have an effect on us, too. There really was a meeting in Aden in which the Yemen leadership participated, then Fidel Castro, Mengistu and Siad Barre, Somalia. [sentence as heard] I feel that we have done everything possible to prevent the shedding of blood. I myself participated in these meetings. We would have liked to have found a peaceful solution for the territorial questions between Somalia and Ethiopia. But unfortunately our Somali friends did not show understanding for the point of view of Yemen and Cuba. It is sad that this attempt of ours did not produce any results and the Somalis chose force, the voice of arms, instead of negotiations. The Somali troops attacked the Ogaden region of Ethiopia.

[Question] I believe this is your third visit to Hungary. What have you discussed this time? In what areas do you wish to strengthen relations between the two countries?

[Answer] I am satisfied with the development of Hungarian-Yemeni relations in the economic, political and cultural spheres alike. We have surveyed our bilateral relations, the Middle East situation, which is endangering world peace, and the conflict in the Horn of Africa. I can state that our points of view coincided in every respect. I regard it as a positive result of my visit that we were able to acquaint ourselves with Hungarian experiences and economic achievements. I would like to tell the dear viewers that our visit to Hungary has been very successful and has served well the interests of our peoples, parties and countries.

YEMEN--YAR

AL-GHASHMI RECEIVES PDRY MINISTER, U.S. AMBASSADOR

JN301802Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Brother Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, chairman of the Command Council and commander in chief of the armed forces, today received brother Fadl Muhsin 'Abdallah, finance minister in the southern part of the homeland. The meeting was attended by brother 'Abdallah Humram, minister of state and personal representative of the Command Council chairman. The brother chairman today received His Excellency Thomas J. Scotes, U.S. ambassador in San'a'. The discussion dealt with relations between the two countries.

COMMAND COUNCIL, SAUDIS DISCUSS COORDINATION

JN302055Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 30 Jan 78 JN

[Text] The Command Council met at noon today at the Republican Palace under brother Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, chairman of the Command Council and commander in chief of the armed forces. At the beginning of the meeting, the Command Council reviewed the decisions made at its previous meeting. The Command Council then heard a report from Foreign Minister brother 'Abdallah al-Asnaj on the draft working paper which will be discussed by the YAR-Saudi Coordination Council, which will meet in Riyadh in the next 10 days.

The Command Council also discussed several topics on its agenda and made the appropriate decisions on them.

ISRAELI MILITARY COMMITTEE DELEGATION ARRIVES 31 JAN

NC311015Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1000 GMT 31 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 31 January--Israeli Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Cairo at 1110 today to attend the meetings of the Military Committee. The meetings will begin this evening.

The Israeli defense minister was welcomed by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of War and War Production Gen Muhammad 'Abd al-Ghani al-Jamasi, Director of Military Intelligence Maj Gen Hasan al-Katib and Deputy Director of the Armed Forces Morale Affairs Department Maj Gen Fahim Shadid.

The Israeli delegation includes head of the Planning Division Gen Avraham Tamir, chief of the Intelligence Branch Shelomo Gazit, Foreign Ministry representative Moshe Sasson and the Israeli official spokesman David (Kollet). 'Ezer Weizman is accompanied by his wife and son.

The Israeli defense minister said on arrival in Cairo that he and General al-Jamasi will begin a discussion of all military problems this evening. He expressed happiness at coming to Cairo for the fourth time and at his meeting with General al-Jamasi. He said: I am happy to meet with friends in Cairo, particularly with General al-Jamasi and his comrades. He added that this is his second official visit to Cairo.

The defense minister added that the discussions will last 3 days, that everything will be discussed and that there are some problems connected with the settlements. We will do our utmost, he said, to reach solutions which could lead to the establishment of peace. Answering a question on his visit to Washington, the Israeli defense minister said that he will go to Washington after President Anwar as-Sadat's visit, not before.

General al-Jamasi declined to make any press statements. The Israeli defense minister said: I am going to follow his example. What I said is enough for today.

After a short rest at the airport, General al-Jamasi accompanied the Israeli defense minister and his delegation to the At-Tahirah Palace where the discussions are due to begin at 1830 today.

ATHERTON ARRIVES IN CAIRO 30 JAN, MAKES STATEMENT

NC301912Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 30 Jan 78 NC

[Excerpt] U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Alfred Atherton arrived in Cairo from Israel at 1730 today aboard a special U.S. plane. He stated on arrival at the airport that he is carrying some ideas which he will discuss tomorrow with Egyptian Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil. He stated that there is hope for arriving at something satisfactory to all parties.

He was received at the airport by Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Ambassador Salah Hasan and U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Hermann Eilts.

Meets With Kamil

NC310929Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0920 GMT 31 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 31 January--Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil met this morning with Alfred Atherton, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, who arrived in Cairo last night.

The meeting was attended on the Egyptian side by Ambassador Ahmad Mahir, the director of the foreign minister's office, and on the U.S. side by Hermann Eilts, U.S. ambassador to Egypt. It lasted over 2 hours.

Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil told reporters that he is glad to be meeting again with Mr Atherton. He added: We are also happy with the continuing serious efforts by the United States to help reach an agreement on comprehensive peace in the Middle East. The minister further said: During our meeting, Mr Atherton briefed me on his unofficial discussions in Jerusalem. He brought with him some ideas which we will study. There are naturally many points on which we disagree but as I said before, we want these negotiations to continue. We hope to achieve a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East through the aid and efforts of the United States. This is what we aspire to. Kamil said he will meet again with Mr Atherton tomorrow to complete today's discussions.

Asked whether Mr Atherton will meet with President Anwar as-Sadat today, Kamil said: This is the first I have heard of such a meeting.

Answering another question, he said: As I have already pointed out, Mr Atherton has visited Jordan and Israel. He is carrying ideas from the other side. We will study these ideas which are related to the declaration of principles which we hope to proclaim one day. Answering another question, he said: We will study the ideas which Mr Atherton has brought with him. When we complete our study, we will give our answer.

Replying to a question about the settlements, the foreign minister said: We are now studying the declaration of principles. The question of the settlements will be studied by the Military Committee, which will begin its activities at At-Tahirah Palace this evening.

Mr Atherton told reporters that he is carrying unofficial proposals, not official ones. He added that he will resume his discussions with the Egyptian foreign minister tomorrow to help achieve an agreement. He went on: Let us wait until tomorrow's discussions are completed.

David Korn, member of the Policy Planning Staff at the U.S. State Department, attended the discussions on the U.S. side.

EGYPTIAN CONSULATE, OFFICES IN IRAQ TO REOPEN

NC301906Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 30 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Consul Amin Yusri, head of the mission looking after Egyptian interests in Iraq, is due in Baghdad on Thursday. The Iraqi Government has informed the Egyptian Government of its approval of Consul Yusri as head of the Egyptian mission and of the reopening of the Egyptian cultural and commercial offices and the Egyptian Consulate in Baghdad and the Iraqi [offices and consulate] in Cairo. This step follows Egypt's breaking of diplomatic relations with Iraq in December.

AS-SADAT VISIT TO UN TO BE DISCUSSED WITH WALDHEIM

TA301939Y Paris AFP in English 1924 GMT 30 Jan 78 TA

[Text] United Nations, New York, Jan 30 (AFP)--The possibility of a visit to the United Nations by Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat will be discussed today in a meeting between Secretary General Kurt Waldheim and 'Abd al-Majid, the Egyptian ambassador to the United Nations, a reliable source said.

Mr al-Majid has just returned to New York from Cairo, where he headed the Egyptian delegation to joint talks with Israel preceding the Ismailia summit. He is to inform Mr Waldheim of current Egyptian diplomatic efforts.

CAIRO PAPERS ON AS-SADAT TRIP, ISRAELI NUCLEAR ARMS

LD2901457 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2320 GMT 28 Jan 78 LD

[Press review]

[Excerpts] Cairo, 28 January--In tomorrow's issues Cairo papers report in banner headlines President Anwar as-Sadat's forthcoming visit to the United States and six other countries which will begin Thursday. The papers assert that President as-Sadat's talks in the countries he will visit--the United States, Morocco, Britain, France, West Germany, Austria and Romania--are intended to achieve a firm international attitude in the face of Israel's opposition to peace.

The papers also prominently report Iraq's declaration today that it refuses to attend the second summit conference of the rejection states to be held in Algiers on 2 and 3 February as well as Iraq's refusal to reconcile with Syria despite the announcement in Damascus that there will be a reconciliation.

The three Cairo papers carry editorials on the forthcoming meeting between President as-Sadat and U.S. President Jimmy Carter. They describe the meeting as a continuation of the momentum toward peace in the Middle East.

Under the headline "From the Negative to the Positive," AL-AHRAM says that following the breakdown of talks at the Political Committee in Jerusalem and after the peace efforts faced the strong winds of Israeli intransigence that threatened the peace initiative, it was necessary for the concerned parties to quickly mount a resuce operation that would prevent a return to the situation that existed before the initiative.

Referring to President as-Sadat's coming tour, during which he will meet with President Carter and other heads of state, the paper affirms that this tour is not necessarily a culmination for the difficult and (?splintered) peace efforts but is definitely a step to give momentum to and intensify the U.S. and international role in the achievement of real and just peace in the area and to exploit the peace initiative that has become the property and responsibility of everyone in the world.

Writing on the same subject, AL-JUMHURIYAH stresses the responsibility of the United States to achieve peace in the Middle East. It says that when the United States invited President as-Sadat to visit and when at the same time it is considering the postponement of the fighter sale to Israel, it appears to be responding to President as-Sadat's reference in his recent speech to U.S. responsibility for the Israeli attitude.

The paper adds: In his recent speech before the People's Assembly, President as-Sadat intended to remind the American people that the garrison of modern weapons which Israel has been provided in past years is responsible for the fact that during the peace negotiations Israeli leaders speak with a language that does not serve peace.

Continuing, the paper says: If our analysis is correct and if the current U.S. position is in response to what the president said, the problem will have been put on the course leading to peace.

The key to the situation, as President as-Sadat has said more than once, is in the hands of the United States. Therefore, when we succeed in changing the U.S. position, real success will have been achieved.

The paper adds: We are not asking the United States to become biased in our favor. All that we are asking it is to frankly answer the question that President as-Sadat has already asked: Is it prepared to defend Israel's borders or to defend its expansionist ambitions as well? We have no doubt, the paper concludes, that the energetic and intensive efforts the United States is exerting for the sake of peace and for the success of As-Sadat's initiative will achieve the objective which the area and the whole world is looking forward to--a just peace in the Middle East.

Discussing the question of nuclear arms in the Middle East AL-AKHBAR says: In 1974 the CIA prepared a report which for the first time confirmed that Israel has in fact produced atomic weapons. This report remained a secret known only to a few U.S. officials until it was published the day before yesterday in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

The publishing of this report at this juncture, when international efforts are being made to persuade Israel to abandon the logic of power, could be a coincidence. Its release at this particular time could also be intended to influence the Egyptian negotiator when he faces the Israeli negotiator, who is backed by a military garrison that includes nuclear weapons.

The papers says that whether Israel possesses nuclear weapons or the report is just an exaggeration and an act of psychological warfare, it is certain that the principles of just peace that govern the Egyptian stand will not be affected or shaken in the face of Israeli armaments. These are principles that emanate from the Egyptian insistence on regarding Arab and Palestinian rights.

The paper stresses that the existence of nuclear arms in Israel constitutes a danger not only to the Middle East countries but also to countries throughout the world, for this will open the way to a nuclear arms race in the countries of the area with all the dangers that it would involve. The capability to produce a nuclear bomb is no longer confined to a limited number of countries; all international studies indicate that the number of the countries with nuclear capability is continuously increasing and that Egypt is among the countries that are capable of joining this club in a few years.

Concluding, AL-AKHBAR says that Israel must realize the dangers of introducing the nuclear race to the Middle East. It must also be well understood that Egypt's eagerness to keep the Middle East free of nuclear arms stems from its profound belief in the need to establish peace based on justice and not imposed by a nuclear balance of power.

ARAB OIL WEAPON, U.S. ARMS SUPPLY POLICY DISCUSSED

NC3016447 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 30 Jan 78 NC

[Hazim 'Abd ah-Rahman commentary: "Security and Power Relations in Light of the Current Moves in the Middle East"]

[Excerpts] The Israeli Cabinet's decision to resume participation in the meetings of the Egyptian-Israeli committee in Cairo comes amid reports that agreement is imminent on a declaration of principles regarding a comprehensive settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Coupled with Israeli statements that the Political Committee is also about to resume its meetings, this is a significant indication of the strong momentum that the peace-making process in the Middle East has maintained since the Egyptian peace initiative which began with President as-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem on 19 November.

There is no doubt that the continuation of the Egyptian-Israeli dialog, despite all difficulties and obstacles this dialog will face, is important in view of the seriousness of the issue under discussion and the grave dangers inherent in the perpetuation of the explosive situation in this sensitive part of the world.

Oil sources in Saudi Arabia have said they are convinced that there is a relationship between the settlement of all aspects of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the continuation and regularity of the oil flow to West Europe and the United States.

It thus appears to us that the oil question is one of the major factors that have prompted the United States to endeavor to mediate between the Egyptian and Israeli sides to insure continuity of the dialog between the two sides until it achieves its objective--a settlement of the problem.

It is not strange that the Saudi clarification of the nature of the oil question has come in the wake of the concerted Egyptian diplomatic moves on more than one front to utilize all available Arab and international resources and energies in support of the peace steps initiated by Cairo.

President Anwar as-Sadat's visit to Washington in early February is a prominent milestone in the Egyptian moves. The importance of this visit can be detected in the statements made by the official White House spokesman on the topics to be discussed by the Egyptian and American sides.

The question of security in the Middle East comes to the surface when military and arms supply issues are discussed. It is important that the U.S. Government reassess the power relations in the area in accordance with the principles of a permanent and just peace. Washington should clearly and tangibly show its concern for its relations and interests with both sides of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Egypt's peace moves, which have surpassed everybody's imagination, have categorically demonstrated that the Arab side is sincere, firm, and objective in its quest for peace. It has also become clear that Israel is not prepared to give up its expansionist dreams in return for peace and that it prefers the policy of dictating peace.

On the basis of this, we believe it would be in harmony with balanced peace and security in the Middle East for Washington to adopt a balanced arms supply policy toward both parties to the conflict, in such a way as not to enable either side to follow a policy of force toward the other. The seriousness and nature of the issue we are dealing with calls for a clear political decision which President as-Sadat implicitly referred to in his speech to the nation on 21 January.

Political observers following the events in the area agree that the U.S. position on the question of security and balance of power is the main factor that will determine whether Israel will adopt an attitude consistent with the facts in the area.

DAYAN'S STATEMENTS ON ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS CRITICIZED

NC3108035Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0630 GMT 31 Jan 78 NC

[Press review]

[Excerpts] Cairo, 31 January--Commenting on the statements of Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan on the Israeli settlements in occupied Sinai, AL-AKHBAR says: In a statement he made to NEWSWEEK, Dayan said Israel would not retreat from its stand in this regard and that such a retreat, if it were to occur, would be a gross error. A day earlier he had said that the problem of the Jewish settlements in Sinai could be overcome and that they no longer constitute an obstacle.

The paper emphasizes that Egypt is not interested in whether Israel has changed its stand on the settlements because Egypt's stand on this issue is decisive and clear. What we are interested in knowing is what Dayan is trying to achieve by making such contradictory and conflicting statements.

The paper says it is clear that Moshe Dayan is no longer abiding by the so-called quiet or rational diplomacy and that he has returned to the policy of contradictory statements to spread confusion and tension at the peace negotiations table. He made contradictory statements on previous occasions and this was one of the main reasons for the suspension of the negotiations.

AL-AKHBAR asks Moshe Dayan to be logical in his military and political life because he is fully aware that Egypt will not accept the colonization of one inch of its land and that the settlements which the Israelis have created for the purpose of outbidding and bargaining will be of no avail to the security of Israel.

AL-AKHBAR stresses that the question of the settlements, which Dayan is raising again, is of no consequence and that it would not be an error for Israel to rid itself of these settlements, as Dayan claims. It would, however, be a gross error if those who created these settlements were to include them in their calculations and if Dayan talks the way he did before.

In conclusion, AL-AKHBAR advises Dayan to stop making provocative statements which lead to confusion and to pursue the so-called quiet or rational policy.

Regarding the steps for the resumption of the activities of the Military Committee in Cairo today and the possibility of resuming the meetings of the Political Committee, AL-JUMHURIYAH says: These steps do not mean that the obstacles along the road to peace have been eliminated. A wide gap continues to exist between the Egyptian and Israeli stands. This gap cannot be bridged quickly. This gap is seen most clearly in the repeated Israeli statements about the so-called adherence to the settlements in Sinai despite the fact that Sinai in general is the least important aspect of the conflict which arouses the ambitions of Israel and creates differences. Despite this, the Israeli leaders do not stop issuing a barrage of statements daily. Each statement has more than one aim and one purpose.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says: Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan, speaking at a meeting in a village near Jerusalem 2 days ago, provided some information which he considered a statement of fact. He said that after the 1967 war Israel proposed to Egypt a total withdrawal from Sinai but Egypt refused. It appears that the total withdrawal has some special meaning to the Israeli foreign minister which is different from the meaning with which we and the rest of the world are familiar.

AL-JUMHURIYAH asks what the Israeli foreign minister means when he refers to total withdrawal after the 1967 war when he was the defense minister. It says that he himself is the author of the famous expression: "I would rather have Sharm ash-Shaykh without peace than peace without Sharm ash-Shaykh." He repeated this expression at his recent meeting although he said after President as-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem: "I am no longer sure if peace without Sharm ash-Shaykh is better than Sharm ash-Shaykh without peace."

The paper recalls that it was Dayan himself who said more than once after the 1967 war that the borders--and he used the words borders--which Israel had reached in the 1967 war were ideal for Israel and that he shares with some Israelis the belief that it is up to the next generation to establish new borders.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says that if the Israeli foreign minister believes that the passage of time between 1967 and 1978 has enabled Israel to create a new reality, as he put it, in the territory it occupies, then this belief is wrong and unacceptable and it conflicts with the most basic rules of international law. Egypt, therefore, abides by its stand, as Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil has said, and will not accept any settlements on one inch of its territory. These are the facts which everybody must comprehend if we and others are not to stray, as President as-Sadat put it in 1972.

AL-AHRAM SUPPORTS AS-SADAT REQUEST FOR U.S. ARMS

LD201954Y Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 27 Jan 78 p 3 LD

[Salah Muntasir article: "The New Weapon"]

[Excerpts] In view of the Israeli intrasigence that has blocked the Egyptian peace initiative, it was natural for Egypt to ask the United States to stop its arms supplies to Israel. But what has actually happened is that in his speech to the nation last Saturday President as-Sadat went beyond such a request and for the first time officially asked the United States to supply Egypt with the same arms it is supplying Israel.

This new Egyptian decision in fact reflects the open mind with which the historic peace initiative was taken. In fact, I will not be far from the truth if I say that this Egyptian decision--after the decision to expel the Soviet experts, the October war decision and the decision to visit Jerusalem--will be the fourth historic decision by which President as-Sadat has shown extraordinary thinking and which has caused deep repercussions at regional and international levels.

In the face of reality and to be objective we must say that to ask the United States today to halt its arms shipments to Israel will not be of much use and might very well be difficult. There are many reasons for this, the first being that supplying Israel with U.S. arms seems to be one of the fundamental commitments of U.S. policy. This was evident during the 1973 war, for after 8 days of fighting Israel was on the verge of collapse along the Egyptian front. Consequently, large shipments of arms which had never before been used in any way flowed into Israel. This was clear proof that the Israel military situation was collapsing and that the United States is determined to keep Israel standing firmly on its feet.

From this we can understand: 1) the meaning of President as-Sadat's address to the American people in his speech last Saturday and his reference to the wrong committed by transforming Israel into an arms garrison threatening to undermine the most splendid initiative the world has known in order to achieve peace--the peace that until a few weeks ago was beyong all hopes; and 2) the significance of the Egyptian request for supplying Egypt with the same arms being supplied to Israel.

There are two questions that inevitably arise here:

1. Does the United States have the ability to put pressure on Israel?
2. Are there any reasons why the Unites States would respond to Egypt's request for arms?

The two questions refelct the great importance of the Arab efforts that have been made recently in an attempt to introduce an Arab countributory role.

It is worth noting here that these Arab efforts are designed to concentrate on halting U.S. arms shipments to Israel. This request alone, in addition to the difficulties involved, appears to be of limited use at present in light of the weapons and equipment now possessed by Israel. However, this does not mean that the Arabs should stop asking for U.S. military pressure on Israel. Rather, in the present circumstances such efforts could play a bigger role if they were devoted to the following:

1. Requesting the United States to put economic pressure on Israel. According to the British magazine THE ECONOMIST "Israel's greatest weakness lies in its economic deterioration."

2. In addition to U.S. economic pressure, Arab efforts can be devoted to achieving greater U.S. political pressure on Israel that would also lessen international support for Israel, increase U.S.-Palestinian rapprochement and further isolate Israel internationally.

3. Most important of all is that Arab efforts with regard to the United States should seek to support the Egyptian request to supply Egypt with U.S. arms.

Why U.S. arms? There is more than one justification for this:

1. U.S. arms in the hands of Egypt would be a real support for hopes for the peace which the world desires in this area. The possibilities of war in any area become greater when there is an arms imbalance among the area countries, but when a balance is achieved the possibilities of war and destruction will be eliminated. Peaceful coexistence between the two superpowers is the best evidence of this fact.

2. Egypt has gone to the ends of the earth in order to achieve peace, but what has actually happened is that the stockpiles of U.S. arms on which Begin is sitting have led him to believe that he can sabotage the Egyptian peace intiative, which has indeed become the possession of a world that cares for peace and stability.

3. U.S. arms for Egypt would be the biggest consolidation of the bridge of friendship which the United States is trying to build with the Arab countries, whether for strategic, economic or petroleum reasons. And with President as-Sadat's peace initiative, there is no longer any reason why U.S. arms should not be given to Egypt.

As Egypt has been seeking peace, it declared that it will ask from the United States the same guarantees that it will give to Israel on the grounds that the 1956 and 1967 wars revealed that Israel attacked Egypt and that if Israel wants security guarantees, Egypt must also ask for guarantees against Israel. U.S. weapons for Egypt would be the best guarantee to protect Egypt from Israel.

Moreover, there are the other missions to which President as-Sadat referred in his speech on Saturday when he said: "I am shouldering commitments and great responsibilities that go beyond the area and cover all of Africa. I hope that the United States will not impose an embargo as the Soviet Union does." The responsibilities and tasks are many and await the backing of U.S. arms.

DEFENSE MINISTER VISITS NORTHERN MILITARY AREA

NC291702Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1645 GMT 29 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 29 January--Gen Muhammad 'Abd al-Hani al-Jamasi, deputy prime minister and war and war production minister, spent 28 and 29 January on a visit to the northern military area and the naval forces in Alexandria, within the framework of a tour of armed forces units and formations which he began last week.

SALIM, SUDAN VICE PRESIDENT TO MEET IN FEBRUARY

NC281140Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1124 GMT 28 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 28 January--In its Sunday edition, OCTOBER reports that Egyptian Prime Minister Mamduh Salim and Sudanese Vice President ar-Rashid at-Tahir Bakr have agreed to meet in Abu Sunbul in the second half of February.

The magazine says that the meeting will be held to implement the most important resolutions of the Egypt-Sudan Higher Ministerial Committee for Integration regarding the establishment of a joint area between the Northern Province and Aswan to achieve integration in various fields. This area will be a model for other areas and will facilitate the movement of people and local commodities in the area.

THREE COMMUNISTS REPORTED ARRESTED IN ALEXANDRIA

NC281108Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1102 GMT 28 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 28 January--The Egyptian security authorities have arrested three communists in Alexandria who were preparing to print leaflets inciting citizens to stage terrorist operations against the regime. The three are members of the communist organization in Egypt.

GROUND SATELLITE STATION NEAR CAIRO INAUGURATED

NC301527Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1418 GMT 30 Jan 78 NC

[Excerpts] Cairo, 30 January--Minister of Transport, Communications and Maritime Transport 'Abd as-Sattar Mujahid today inaugurated a ground satellite station in Al-Ma'adi [a Cairo suburb] for telephone communications between Cairo and Khartoum using the Symphony earth satellite. The inauguration was attended by French Ambassador to Egypt Jacques Senard, the FRG charge d'affaires in Cairo and a number of former communications ministers.

BA'TH PARTY ISSUES STATEMENT DENOUNCING TUNISIA

JN3018500Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1725 GMT 30 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 30 January--The National Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party has praised the struggle and unity of the progressive national organizations in Tunisia and denounced the savage measures of suppression practiced by the organs of the Tunisian regime.

In a statement issued today, the National Command called on the Arab national and pan-Arab progressive forces as well as all forces of liberation and progress in the world to support the Arab masses in Tunisia in order to stop all the forms of suppression to which they are being subjected and to release the detained politicians and strugglers of the Tunisian General Union of Labor, student organizations, peasants and professionals. The following is the text of the party National Command's statement:

Masses of our struggling Arab nation: At this historic phase through which our Arab nation is passing, Tunisia is witnessing a huge and wide popular uprising, with the various factions and classes under the working class and its struggling cadres in the Tunisian General Union of Labor taking part in it.

Since the beginning of the strike by the textile workers at Qasr Hilal in Tunisia, the struggle movement of the masses has been escalating for the sake of improving the living conditions of the working class and the toiling masses, protecting and guaranteeing the independence of the Tunisian General Union of Labor, securing the basic freedoms of the citizens, releasing the potential of the masses and enabling them to participate genuinely and voluntarily in running the affairs of the country in a manner that will lead to the real solution of the acute economic crisis from which the masses are suffering, due to the Tunisian regime's insistence on following a capitalist course hostile to socialism--a course which links the Tunisian economy with the capitalist market and the reactionary, Zionist and imperialist camp.

Despite the fact that the labor and popular opposition to this course has been peaceful, the Tunisian regime has resorted to suppressing what is left of freedom as stated by the laws of the regime. It has also tried to undermine the independence of the democratic and popular organizations and impose on them subservience to the command of the Destourian Socialist Party, and sole legal political organization in the country.

On the Arab level, this course has, during all stages of its application, been in line with the regime's policy of throwing itself in the lap of reaction, a policy aimed at imposing a capitulatory settlement in its various forms on the Arab nation in order to liquidate its central issue in Palestine.

The great uprising in Tunisia--with its political, social and pan-Arab slogans which involve the masses of the working class, students, farmers and the rest of the toiling Tunisian factions, together with the heroic persistent struggle under the banner of these slogans, proceeding from the legitimate economic and social demands--constitutes the only way to emerge from the crushing economic and political crisis and indicates that the consciousness of the masses is deep and comprehensive and reflects latent creative and revolutionary capabilities in this struggling country.

The Arab Socialist Ba'th Party National Command views the popular uprising in Tunisia as a splendid picture of our glorious Arab nation's confrontation with the imperialist, Zionist and reactionary onrush to which the Arab homeland is being subjected. This uprising also constitutes a rejection of the collapse and deterioration in the stand of the camp of the capitulatory regimes. This uprising demonstrates the invincible revolutionary will of the masses in all the countries of the Arab homeland and their ability to reject and remain steadfast in the face of all forms of suppression and plotting against their potential and destiny.

The Arab Socialist Ba'th Party National Command hails the struggle and unity of the progressive and national organizations in Tunisia. The Ba'th Party National Command praises the heroic acts and sacrifices of the martyrs and heroic masses of our people in their cities and villages. The Ba'th Party National Command denounces the brutal and bloody repressive measures being carried out by the organs of authority against these masses. The Ba'th Party National Command calls on all the patriotic, pan-Arab and progressive forces in the Arab homeland and all liberation and progressive forces in the world to support the struggle of the Arab masses in Tunisia in order:

1. To stop all forms of suppression of the masses and to release the political detainees of the leaders and cadres of the Tunisian General Union of Labor and the organizations of students, farmers and professionals;

2. To recognize and guarantee the independence of the trade union and popular organizations and to insure the democratic freedom and the masses' right to voluntary organization independent from the authorities;

3. To denounce all attempts of internal and external plotting against the unity of the toiling classes in Tunis, which constitute the backbone of the national unity on the road to independence, progress and unity;

4. To discard the political, economic and cultural options which the Tunisian regime pursues and which led the country to the current economic and political crises and hindered Tunisia in the past 2 years from performing its historic role in resisting the imperialist, Zionist, reactionary and liquidationist scheme in the Arab homeland and in raising the standard of the masses in Tunisia.

Glory and immortality to the martyrs of our people in Tunisia, Palestine and all the Arab arenas of struggle. Victory to the masses of our struggling Arab nation in all countries of the Arab homeland. Long live the unity of Arab struggle, the path of our nation to unity, freedom and socialism.

IRAQ EXPLAINS CONDITIONS FOR CONVENING BAGHDAD SUMMIT

JN301343Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1310 GMT 30 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 30 January--A responsible source in the Foreign Ministry has commented on a report released by the Algerian news agency to the effect that Iraq has extended an invitation to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to attend the Baghdad summit conference. In a statement to INA the responsible source said the fact is that at the time Iraq extended an invitation to Algeria, Libya, Syria, the PDRY and the Palestinian resistance movement to convene the Baghdad conference on the basis of a clear charter rejecting liquidationist solutions and of adopting a liberation course, the Foreign Ministry had summoned the representatives of the other Arab countries--except Egypt--on 29 December and explained to them the aims of the invitation.

The source asserted that at that time the Foreign Ministry explained to the representatives of the Arab countries that Iraq welcomes any Arab country that wants to join in this call, commits itself to the principles rejecting liquidationist solutions, adopts the liberation course and agrees to this charter.

The responsible source said that the Saudi ambassador in Baghdad informed the Foreign Ministry after some time that his country was ready to participate in this conference if the resolutions of the Algiers and Rabat summits were adopted and if all the Arab countries without exception were invited to attend. It should be noted that President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr had earlier sent messages to the presidents of the Tripoli summit conference in which he called for convening the Baghdad conference to discuss an Iraqi working paper which defined the commitments of every country to confront a settlement.

Information Minister Comments

JN301353Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1220 GMT 30 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Paris, 30 January--Information Minister Sa'd Qasim Hammudi has stated that Iraq will define its stand on the Algiers summit conference in light of the results that are reached by that conference.

In an exclusive statement to Monte Carlo radio, broadcast today, Hammudi said that Iraq believes that As-Sadat's visit to occupied Palestine and the subsequent contacts with the Zionist entity leaders are a natural outcome of the scramble for a settlement based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. He affirmed that the only way to get away from the whirlpool of settlements is to adopt a course of armed struggle and mobilize all the Arab nation's resources in accordance with a clear-cut program for struggle that will bring about the recovery of the occupied Arab territories and the restoration of the Palestinian people's rights.

Hammudi explained that President al-Bakr sent messages to the heads of state of the Tripoli conference, inviting them to a summit conference in Baghdad to discuss an integrated Iraqi working paper. The invitation still stands, and Iraq has not been informed by any side that it rejects the invitation.

Hammudi said that Iraq had complied with a request to hold a bilateral meeting with Syrian Government officials in Algiers to discuss bilateral issues and solve outstanding problems. The Iraqi delegation in fact prepared itself to leave, but then Iraq was surprised by the announcement that a summit conference would be convened in Algiers.

Hammudi explained that following the Tripoli conference Iraq held high-level contacts with the various progressive forces and regimes. During these contacts Iraq affirmed that it is eager to establish a progressive Arab front that will seriously and truly confront the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary plan, which is aimed at imposing capitulation on the Arab nation and liquidating its central cause of Palestine. He affirmed that Iraq will shoulder the main military, economic and political burden in the front of steadfastness and confrontation.

ROYAL COURT CHIEF DISCUSSES MIDEAST SITUATION, PEACE EFFORTS

JN272013Y Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1824 GMT 27 Jan 78 JN

[Amman television correspondent 'Adil Malik 27 January interview with Ash-Sharif 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court--recorded]

[Text] [Question] Dear listeners, good evening. Amid these events and at the climax of the successive developments in the Arab area, we are in dire need today, more than at any time in the past, of hearing the responsible words and the far-sighted objective analysis which enables all of us to understand the events going on around us. Tonight we will hear those responsible words and that aware and far-sighted analysis. Briefly, we will hear tonight from His Excellency Ash-Sharif 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf. Your Excellency, please permit me first to welcome you to this interview, which is actually a review of events, during which we will try to answer the many questions people are asking, particularly these days and you undoubtedly know this. The question which imposes itself at the beginning today is related to the recent development in the Arab area. We begin with the Egyptian-Israeli talks. The question, specifically, is: Are you among the pessimists who expect the Egyptian-Israeli talks to collapse for good?

[Answer] To answer the question we must say that the outcome of the Egyptian-Israeli talks now depends on Israel. If the situation remains as it is, namely, that Egypt continues to demand full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab areas and the granting of the right of self-determination to the Palestinian people in full freedom, and if Israel continues to regard the occupied areas as its own lands and to regard the Palestinian people's recovery of their rights and the Israeli withdrawal from the occupied areas as out of the question, then naturally the talks will reach a deadlock. All indications are that Israel does not want to accept the idea of civilized human coexistence in this area. It prefers to keep the Arab territory. As His Majesty King Husayn said more than 10 years ago, Israel's option is either to keep the land or peace; it cannot have both. If Israel continues to persist in its objective; namely, to keep the occupied areas, to take an obstinate stand against the legitimate and established Palestinian rights, while at the same time seeking to obtain the recognition of the Arabs and durable and comprehensive peace, then this is impossible. Consequently, it is difficult to speculate at this phase whether the talks have reached a deadlock. However, indications are that the Israeli stand has not so far changed.

[Question] Your Excellency, when we begin to speculate about what is in store for the area if the talks collapse or reach a deadlock, as you have pointed out, what do you expect? We must not forget that there is a collective Arab responsibility. What will be the role or responsibility of the Arab states if the talks reach a deadlock?

[Answer] The responsibility of the Arab nation or the Arab states is to be ahead of the Egyptian-Israeli talks in case they fail. This responsibility existed before the Egyptian initiative was launched, and is a continuing responsibility, whether the initiative succeeds or fails. Indeed, Arab responsibility is concentrated on the fact that there should be a unified Arab position, strong solidarity and that the Arabs should be capable of pooling their resources, acting wisely in the matters that concern them, and having mutual confidence. The Arabs should build a unified stand.

This responsibility existed 20 years ago, and 10 years ago, before and after the Israeli occupation in 1967. In any case, despite the outcome of the talks which are currently taking place, this responsibility exists. However, if these talks fail, then the need or the national duty and pan-Arab responsibility of the Arab states to build a unified stand based on building a healthy, strong Arab position becomes more urgent. If I may go back to an earlier time, namely, the early sixties, the situation in the Arab world was tense as a result of Israel's intentions to divert the tributaries of the River Jordan. We then heard cries of war and threats. However, regrettably, the atmosphere which prevailed in the Arab homeland at that time was unhealthy. At that time--in the early sixties--His Majesty King Husayn raised the slogan of building an Arab position of strength. However, this slogan was lost in the midst of the ideological, party, political and other disputes. Consequently, this slogan was not destined to succeed at the beginning. However, later on, when the responsibility became a direct one, and the friction with the danger became also a direct one, the Arabs summoned themselves to a summit conference in 1964.

As a result of this, several resolutions were passed, including the resolution to build an Arab position of strength and a detailed military and political program. A unified Arab command was initiated, and it was agreed to meet periodically on the summit level. Had all these resolutions been implemented, the situation of the Arab world would have been much better than it is at present. Unfortunately, the 1967 incidents followed, then the occupation and then the division which dominated the Arab world as a result of weakness and the psychological shock caused by the 1967 defeat. What is required now is to reunify the Arab position, to overcome the disputes and differences which have arisen as a result of Egypt's peaceful initiative. We must overcome this situation and embark on building a unified Arab stand within a program based on working for building the intrinsic Arab power. There are many details related to this question. Most important of these is to place Arab wealth in the service of the patriotic and pan-Arab goals within a general, extensive program to unify the Arab position and to build the Arab position of strength.

[Question] Certain voices, now call for convening a general Arab summit conference so as to break away from the policy of axes, that is, thoese states which support President as-Sadat's initiative and those which formed the so-called front of steadfastness and resistance against President as-Sadat's initiative. Is there a suitable Arab atmosphere now to convene a general Arab summit to achieve this solidarity, as Your Excellency said?

[Answer] We hope that the Arab atmosphere will move in that direction. We in Jordan have always believed that the policy of axes is harmful to higher Arab interests. The bonds uniting the Arab nation are more than points of difference and division. Any person and any Arab quarter can look at these differences through a microscope and ignore the factors of unity and vice versa. But if we look at matters positively, we find that the bonds uniting the Arab nation are many indeed. Most important of these is the common destiny and national existence. Actually, regardless of the circumstances, which sometimes call for reactions to and views of the Arab interest, leading to the existence of axes, joint and collective action must be taken to hold a single summit conference or meeting at the highest levels to appraise the current Arab situation. This is the only means by which we can cope with the developments, whether they result from the initiative of President Anwar as-Sadat or from previous differences concerning this initiative. The important thing is to overcome the division and to establish a common strong position.

[Question] We will remain within the general framework of the talk about the latest developments of the situation in the area, but this question actually deals with Jordan directly. I hope you will receive some of the remarks with an open mind. Actually, certain quarters--by this I particularly mean Western or international quarters in general--recently reiterated that Jordan should have participated in the talks which took place. It was said that to a certain extent Jordan had left Egypt alone in the Arab arena despite the fact that Jordan was most courageous in supporting President as-Sadat's initiative. What is your opinion on this and why was it that Jordan did not join the Egyptian-Israeli talks, for instance?

[Answer] As I said, the criticism which has been and is still directed against the Jordanian stand--that Jordan did not play the role expected of it in the recent developments--primarily orginated from Israeli sources or sources sympathetic to Israel or are influenced by the Israeli position wittingly or unwittingly. If one analyzes this criticism, he will find that it can be summed up in the following: Jordan did not rush to replace the Palestinians during the recent talks. It did not rush to replace the Palestinians in the peace talks.

Naturally, this was based on the wrong assumption that Jordan intended to replace the Palestinians. This is a wrong assumption. Jordan considers that it has a basic role in the region, in the confrontation with Israel and in the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the area, but this role should proceed alongside the Palestinian people and should not be at their expense.

Therefore, when Israel makes this assumption and calls on Jordan to participate, it is ignoring the Palestinian people and their rights. It is somehow trying to tempt Jordan. This is a erroneous assumption. As his majesty the king has said on more than one occasion, Jordan does not have any territorial designs. Jordan feels that it is assuming a historic national responsibility toward the Palestinian people, their rights and issues.

When the Israeli prime minister says that the West Bank and Gaza, or Judaea and Samaria as he calls them, are Israeli territories, and says that he will never give up these territories, and, as a matter of fact, goes further by saying that Jordan has nothing to do with or rights to these territories, and also says we will not allow any right of self-determination to the Palestinian people and will not accept such a right, then he is closing the door finally to any peaceful settlement of the question of the Palestinian people. Yet he calls on Jordan to play a formal and ostensible [shakliyan wa zahiriyan] role as though to cover up Israel's complete intransigence over the Palestine question. Naturally, in this sense, Jordan does not accept to play a substitute role for the Palestinian people and their rights. Jordan is ready to play a complementary role for the Palestinian people and their roles within the unified and expanded Arab framework embracing all Arab sides.

At the same time, Jordan has not failed in the past to play a basic role in the various international efforts to achieve a just and lasting solution both through cooperation with the various international quarters and through joint Arab action, by establishing a unified Arab stand and tackling the current situation in a sensible and responsible manner.

Jordan is ready to play this role in the future. Jordan has already expressed its readiness to go to Geneva within a unified Arab delegation, including the Palestinians, with the aim of achieving a just and lasting solution under Resolution 242 and other resolutions concerning the rights of the Palestinian people. We have not failed in this role, but Israel wants us to play a role other than the one we envisage for ourselves. Such talk finds an echo among many outside circles, especially in the West; circles which are influenced by the Israeli viewpoint whether through the media or Israeli diplomacy.

[Question] Does this mean that had Jordan participated in the Cairo conference, it would not have had a major role in the past stage?

[Answer] Actually, the subject should not be presented in this manner. We were working--I mean his majesty the king had carried out initiatives before President as-Sadat's initiative with regard to the Arab position, unifying stands and building a policy and a strategy concerning the problem facing us, in cooperation with President al-Asad in Syria and in consultation with President as-Sadat in Egypt as well as with the brother Arab kings and leaders directly concerned. This strategy was drawn up with the agreement of all the Arab parties about Geneva and in accord with clear principles concerning a unified Arab delegation, including the Palestinians. Work was carried out in this direction.

President as-Sadat wanted to carry out a large initiative of historical dimension to compel the Israelis, before the world public, to adopt basic decisions about the withdrawal and the Palestinian cause. This view was a personal one on the part of President as-Sadat. President as-Sadat has declared on many occasions that this was his personal view and that he took the initiative on his own. His majesty the king has described this initiative on many occasions as one which required great courage and which faced big difficulties and reaction in the Arab homeland and abroad. At any rate, it was an initiative carried out as a result of evaluation of the national and Arab position from a certain point of view. This initiative was at the same time carried out as a result of adherence to pan-Arabism and we are aware of this on the part of President as-Sadat. It is clear, through the development of events, that he is continuing to adhere to it by insisting on the comprehensive solution. However, all this emanates from a personal stand.

Therefore, it is difficult for anyone to say why Jordan has not participated in these talks. This is because we have a different view. What is important is that Jordan should understand the responsibility--its present responsibility as well as the responsibility of the rest of the Arab countries. This responsibility is to rebuild a unified Arab position and to continue its endeavors in order to, first, unify the Arab stand and efforts and, second, to continue to expose the Israeli expansionist trends and intentions and to force the Israeli leadership to adopt basic decision pertaining to what will happen in the future about withdrawal and the Palestinian cause and the lasting and just peace.

Of course we do not have at present methods to terrorize Israel--I do not mean terrorism in the full sense of the word, but it is incumbent upon the Arab side to unify its endeavors and efforts within this framework instead of scattering them. This still is our view of our position--not entering in this field or that or participating in this stage or that.

[Question] Your Excellency, can we talk about the conference or the meeting which took place in Teheran between His Majesty King Husayn and President Carter on the eve of the new year? Is it possible to know the outcome of these talks, in terms of what we have dealt with in the previous questions and answers?

[Answer] His majesty has discussed these talks on more than one occasion and has explained their contents. It is difficult to deviate from these contents because that is what really happened. A frank and clear discussion took place between his majesty and President Carter on the situation in the region. President Carter asked his majesty Jordan's views on the developments and on its role in the region. He also asked what were the best possible means to hasten the process of establishing just and lasting peace. His majesty's stand on this issue was commensurate with the permanent national policy, especially at this stage of the cause. Jordan's position is that Israel must make a clear commitment to withdraw to the 1967 borders. The principle of self-determination for the Palestinian people must be clear. This includes people in the occupied territories and people outside these territories after their return to their homes.

The right of the Palestinian people to return and determine their future is a basic condition for any settlement. Jordan has taken part in the peace endeavors in past years and is ready to continue in the way which is in the interest of the nation, if these conditions are insured. President Carter understood our position and the role which we envisage for our country and the region. We are completely satisfied that these talks and contacts are still going on between the United States and Jordan and between President Carter and his majesty the king.

[Question] Your Excellency, as everybody knows, the United States of America is playing a main role in the game of finding a solution for the region. The question is: Has the United States, in your view, played a real, complete and effective role in the present situation?

[Answer] The answer depends on the U.S. view of its real interest in the region. Our opinion is that the role required of the United States is that it must throw its entire weight behind a just and honorable solution based on a balance between the complete Israeli withdrawal and Palestinian rights on the one hand and the commitments of just peace on the other. In our opinion the United States should use its weight to this effect and to fulfill its international responsibilities and use its weight and its influence on Israel in particular in order to push the issues in this direction. The endeavors in this direction must be made, whether overtly or covertly. I mean that the United States must be committed to the basic principles [words indistinct]. At present the United States, it seems, imagines for itself a role of cool diplomacy and quiet efforts separate from statements and speeches, in order to push and enlarge the current peace talks between Egypt and Israel, this is the declared U.S. opinion about their role and we cannot judge now whether the United States has really used all its strength or not. Our position since 1967 has been that the United States must take basic and courageous decisions to face Israeli expansionist ambitions. The United States, the European states and the world community must make clear to Israel that there are limits to support and that support stops when Israeli ambitions exceed the limit. If it is a problem of existence and security guarantees, this is understood, but when the expansionist ambitions begin the support must end. This has been our view since 1967 and it is still our attitude.

There are encouraging points in Carter's statements and announcements. These statements show that he understands that the Palestinian issue is the crux of the problem and that territorial expansion is unacceptable and cannot be accepted by the Arabs. This is an expansion at the expense of their interests, their countries and their peoples. The question is: Is the United States going to bear this responsibility through to the end and assume its great task in the region in the direction of just and lasting peace? This is very difficult to answer now.

[Question] From the journalistic speculations, in your opinion, is it possible for us to say that the process of international detente between the Soviet Union and the United States is still sound, since the well-known U.S.-Soviet statement on the Middle East?

[Answer] It seems that international detente, that is, the detente between the United States and the Soviet Union, is shaking in the Middle East, in the Horn of Africa and in other places. It is difficult to say... it is really easier for the United States and the Soviet Union naturally to decide--detente or not. But it is clear that there are points of dispute, such as Carter's presentation of the issue of the human rights which the Soviet Union and the socialist bloc consider interference in their internal affairs. There are other points too, such as the Horn of Africa and the Middle East. We hope that the concept of the human rights as expounded by Carter is comprehensive and encompasses all the world's region and therefore the Middle East and the rights of the Palestinians and the violation of human rights in the occupied Arab territories.

[Question] To look forward rather than backward--Jordan represents the balanced position in the area at present. It has been pointed out that Jordan is walking on a tightrope to keep the balance, to insure this balance. How do you view Jordan's future role in all these developments?

[Answer] I have tried to talk about my view of Jordan's position in answer to previous questions. But to be more exact the Jordanian role will be a positive one in the Arab world. It will be a role aiming at rapprochement in the Arab region. We seek agreement and seek renunciation of the policy of axes.

We look for positive discussion of issues in the Arab world. There should be concentrated efforts to reach agreement on the points which affect national existence and basic interests. Differences must be bypassed. If the Arabs could view their problems from this angle they would find that the ties which bind them are more numerous than those which bind the great blocs in the world. Our ties are many. The Arab world is one from the historical and cultural viewpoints. The differences are more tribal differences than ideological or complex political differences.

During the past 20 years there have been basic issues which raised many problems and this is natural. The Jordanian role is aimed at reaching agreements, closing ranks and using reason in tackling our issues. We call for dialog with the world removed from fear and tension and with confidence. His Majesty King Husayn, during very difficult circumstances, has faced the world with quiet dialog, as Jordan sees it. [Words indistinct] even if there are differences and emotional reactions in the Arab world, we must preach these ideas and respect one another and have mutual confidence. We must tackle issues frankly and practically, without bragging. We must also contribute to comprehensive Arab unity. All indications are that there is no remedy for our problems unless we build our own forces.

This does not only mean building our military strength but also pooling our resources in the service of our aims for construction, education and development and establishing effective systems which enable us to face the world and to face our problem in the Middle East from a position of strength. This will enable us to tackle the Palestinian problem in a peaceful way, or in any other way from a position of strength.

[Question] Your Excellency, we know that his majesty the king personally worked to prevent confrontation between the two partners of the October war, that is, between Presidents al-Asad and as-Sadat. But regrettably, as we all know, the rift took place. Will Jordan make any new specific attempt to mend the rift, particularly between Presidents al-Asad and as-Sadat, in the forseeable future?

[Answer] His Majesty King Husayn is bound to President al-Asad by very close brotherly ties and joint action. His majesty the king is also bound to President as-Sadat by close brotherly ties and respect. He exerted strenuous efforts, not after the initiative but even before that, in bringing about reconciliation between Egypt and Syria and also in terms of the wide Arab framework. His majesty is proceeding on this course. Naturally the dispute is over basic issues and not over personal differences.

Whenever we can create an atmosphere in the Arab homeland that will allow calm dialog and discussion of matters frankly, we will be able to define the road of action. Actually, the disputes are deep and big at present. However, Jordan believes it has the responsibility to continue to contribute to creating a fraternal Arab atmosphere that would allow the conduct of a dialog over these issues with responsibility, love and mutual confidence. Jordan cannot settle these disputes, because they are very big, but we have to play a role with regard to these disputes. Of course, the other Arab countries and the Arab brothers as well as all the Arab parties should shoulder a similar responsibility.

[Question] Your Excellency, it might be profitable to end this round with the following question: Should the current attempts and talks to establish a real, just and honorable peace in the area fail, and should we reach a deadlock, would the Arabs collectively have any choice other than the war we are now hearing about?

[Answer] Permit me to say that the subject is not a choice of war or peace. The matter is that the Arabs should choose between strength and weakness. They must choose either to stay weak and divided or to build their strength. If the Arabs build their strength, they will be able to solve their differences, whether in peacetime or through other methods. They will be more capable of acting, regardless of the method, to achieve their national goals. Therefore, the choice should be between division and weakness on the one hand and strength on the other.

Naturally we believe that the sound choice is strength, or in other words, the real choice is the choice of methods to build this strength--the intrinsic Arab strength with all its comprehensive meaning that should go beyond military aspects to confident cultural construction, namely, educational, economic and industrial construction. What is important is using rational methods, discussing matters soberly and planning the future in a responsible and studied manner. The real choice is between strength and weakness, not between war and peace.

SOVIET FRIENDSHIP DELEGATION MAKES VISIT TO DAMACUS

JN281810Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1330 GMT 28 Jan 78 JN

[Excerpts] Damascus, 28 January--Muhammad 'Ali al-Halabi, speaker of the People's Assembly, received at 1230 today the Soviet-Syrian friendship delegation led by Zinaida Kruglova, CPSU Central Committee member and chairman of the Union of Soviet Societies for Friendship and Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries. The meeting was attended by Dr Bilal Muhsin, chairman of the Arab and foreign affairs committee at the People's Assembly, and Hajir Sadiq, chairman of the general federation of women in Syria.

The head of the Soviet delegation talked about the strong relations between Syria and the Soviet Union as well as the evolution of these relations in a way that serves the interests of both peoples and countries.

The People's Assembly speaker then praised the principled relations between the two friendly countries as well as the support Syria and the Arab nation receive from the socialist countries, foremost of which is the Soviet Union.

At the end of his talk, the People's Assembly speaker stressed Syria's earnest work to achieve a just and lasting peace through Israel's total withdrawal from the Arab territories occupied in 1967 and recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to establish their state on the soil of their homeland.

Received by Ba'th Official

JN291547Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1400 GMT 29 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 29 January--Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Ba'th Party, today received the delegation of the Soviet-Syrian Friendship Society under Zinaida Kruglova, member of the CPSU Central Committee. The meeting was attended by Comrade Mit'ib Sharan, Regional Command member and president of the Syrian-Soviet Society.

During the meeting cordial exchanges took place on the relations of friendship and cooperation which connect the Ba'th Party and the CPSU and the two governments and peoples and which serve the progress and development of the two countries in establishing socialist society. Soviet-Syrian cooperation strengthens the masses and their liberation movements and supports the peace-loving forces in their continued struggle against Zionism and imperialism. It also opposes the aggressive designs of Zionism and imperialism against the people of the world. The Soviet Union and Syria cooperate to help oppressed people achieve national independence and social progress and to help achieve just peace in the Arab region and all over the world.

Comrade al-Ahmar reviewed the current situation in the Arab region and the negative repercussions of the capitulation of the treasonous As-Sadat regime on the Arab cause. He explained the principled stand of the Ba'th Party and Syria under President al-Asad in condemning these methods and confronting them and in consolidating Arab steadfastness to abort the new plot of capitulation. Comrade al-Ahmar affirmed the determination of the Syrian Arab region and the Arab nation to continue the struggle to regain the occupied Arab territories and the rights of the Palestinian Arab people, under the leadership of the PLO, including their rights to return, to self-determination and to establish their independent state.

Our party and people appreciate the help and support given by the Soviet Union during our just struggle to regain our rights, Comrade al-Ahmar said. He added that the Arab nation is able to face the challenges no matter how great and continue struggle until victory.

The head of the delegation reiterated the stand of the CPSU, the Soviet peoples and government on the Middle East, based on supporting the Arab struggle to regain all the occupied Arab territories and establish the national rights of the Palestinian Arab people. She said that what As-Sadat has done and is still doing aborts the peace endeavors, liquidated the Palestinian cause and serves the Zionist-Imperialist plots. She lauded the stands of struggle of the Ba'th Party under President Hafiz al-Asad and reaffirmed the complete support of the Soviet Union for Syria and for the PLO in the just struggle to regain Arab rights and establish just peace in the Middle East and the world.

At the end of the meeting Comrade al-Ahmar asked the head of the Soviet delegation to convey the warm greetings of President Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Ba'th Party, to Comrade Leonid Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, and also the greetings of the Ba'th Party leadership to the leadership of the CPSU.

Delegation Departs

JN3014O7Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1300 GMT 30 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 30 January--The delegation of the Soviet-Syrian friendship society under Zinaida Kruglova, member of the CPSU Central Committee, left Damascus this morning following a visit of several days to Syria at the invitation of the Syrian-Soviet friendship society.

The delegation was seen off at the airport by Mut'ib Shanan, regional command member and chairman of the Syrian-Soviet society; Comrade Muhammad 'Ali al-Ashqar, secretary of the Damascus party branch; Comrade Ibrahim al-'Ali, commander of the popular army; members of the executive bureau of the Syrian-Soviet friendship society; and the Soviet ambassador in Damascus.

In a statement to SANA, the chairwoman said: I leave the soil of friendly Syria carrying the best feelings of friendship and love to the people of the Soviet Union from the Syrian people.

She added: I am sure that Syria will achieve victory by lining up behind the leadership of the struggler Comrade Hafiz al-Asad, the party's secretary general, so as to foil all plots concocted against it by the imperialism and colonialism in the region.

The delegation's chairwoman then lauded the struggling stands of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party under President Hafiz al-Asad. She concluded her statement by saying that awarding the Medal of the Union of Soviet Societies for Friendship With Foreign Countries to Comrade Shanan, chairman of the Syrian-Soviet friendship society, is an appreciation of his constant struggle to consolidate and develop the friendship ties between the two friendly countries, as well as the activities of the Syrian-Soviet friendship society.

ALGERIA

SPANISH SOCIALIST DELEGATION MAKES VISIT TO ALGIERS

Meets With Boumediene

LD3022417 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 30 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Brother Houari Boumediene, president of the republic and chairman of the Council of the Revolution, this afternoon received at the presidency of the republic the delegation of the Spanish Socialist Workers Party [PSOE] led by Mr Felipe Gonzales.

The meeting was attended by brothers Mohamed Salah Yahyaoui, member of the Council of the Revolution and executive official in charge of the party structure; and Sliman Hoffman, adviser at the presidency.

The PSOE delegation was received this afternoon by the foreign minister, brother Abdelaziz Bouteflika, in the presence of brother Sliman Hoffman.

FLN, PSOE Communique Issued

LD3103317 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2100 GMT 30 Jan 78 LD

[Summary] The talks between the FLN and the Spanish Socialist Workers Party [PSOE] have led to the publication of a joint communique. The communique states that the two delegations discussed regional and international problems and the prospects for development of their relations. They paid special attention to the situation in the Western Sahara, a direct consequence of the tripartite Madrid agreement and to the problems of security in the Mediterranean. The two delegations reaffirm the right of the Saharan people to self-determination and give their support to the just struggle waged by their legitimate representatives, the POLISARIO Front, against the forces of aggression, and annexation, and the regimes of Rabat and Nouakchott. They consider that the forthcoming OAU summit should bring an equitable and lasting solution to the Western Sahara problem in conformity with UN and OAU resolutions on the principle of self-determination of the Saharan people. The FLN and PSOE delegations condemn all foreign intervention and the imperialist attempts at destabilization which pose grave threats to peace and security in the region. They consider that all external interference constitutes a threat to peace in the Mediterranean basin and in the world. They consider that the process of detente in Europe should be spread to the Mediterranean zone. On the Middle East, the two parties expressed their conviction that peace, security and stability in the region cannot be achieved without the reestablishment of the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to form an independent state and the evacuation of all the occupied Arab territories. The two sides underlined the need for the PLO--the sole authentic representative of the Palestinian people--to participate on an equal footing in any search for a solution to the Middle East problem. They reaffirm support for the African peoples struggling against colonialism, neocolonialism, imperialism, racism and apartheid and reiterate support for the struggle of the progressive forces against fascism and imperialist domination in Latin America. On bilateral relations, the two delegations expressed satisfaction with the relations existing between the Algerian FLN and the Spanish Socialist Party and highlighted friendly relations between the two peoples.

The stressed the need to hold periodic consultations on problems of mutual interest. Within the framework of the consolidation of the traditional links of friendship between the Algerian and Spanish peoples, a protocol agreement on cooperation between the two parties was signed on the occasion of the visit of the Spanish delegation to Algeria. The delegation left Algiers this afternoon.

LIBYA

AT-TURAYKI MEETS WITH NKOMO, MUGABE BEFORE MALTA TALKS

LD201304Y Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 30 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Foreign Secretary Dr 'Ali at-Turayki this morning met with African leaders Joshua Nkomo and Robert Mugabe who are now in Malta for the meeting being held there to discuss the Zimbabwe problem. The Libyan foreign secretary assured the two African leaders that the Jamahiriyah fully supports and bolsters the struggle of the Zimbabwe people for ending the rule of the racist minority there.

The two African leaders, Joshua Nkomo and Mugabe expressed to the foreign secretary their profound esteem for brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and their thanks for the Jamahiriyah's help and support for the Zimbabwe people who are struggling against racism.

The foreign secretary arrived in Malta this morning on a brief working visit. He was welcomed at the airport by Maltese Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Justice Joseph Cassar, Foreign Ministry under secretary and senior Maltese Government officials and the Libyan ambassador in Malta and his staff.

IRAQ'S TARIQ 'AZIZ ARRIVES WITH MESSAGE FROM AL-BAKR

LD291940Y Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, 29 January--Brother Tariq 'Aziz, member of the Revolution Command Council and member of the National Command of the Iraqi Socialist Arab Ba'th Party, arrived in Tripoli this afternoon on a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

He was welcomed by brother Muhammad az-Zuwayy, secretary of information and culture and the Iraqi ambassador to the Jamahiriyah, in which he said: I am visiting the Jamahiriyah as an envoy of President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr to his brother Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. I carry a written message concerning the current Arab conditions which lays down the foundations for insuring a confrontation with the imperialist and Zionist plans and the capitulationist policies in the area. I also want to conduct consultations between the two countries, which are linked by good fraternal relations and a deep understanding of all the basic issues.

Meets With Jallud

LD291942Y Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, 29 January--At 1630 today at the People's Palace Staff Maj 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud received brother Tariq 'Aziz, member of the Revolution Command Council and member of the National Command of the Iraqi Socialist Arab Ba'th Party.

A JANA reporter has learned that Tariq 'Aziz, the personal envoy of President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr, has handed Major Jallud a message from President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr to Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

MOROCCO

FOREIGN MINISTRY DELEGATION LEAVES FOR ROMANIA

LD291411Y Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 29 Jan 78 LD

[Summary] Abderrahman Baddou, secretary of state for foreign affairs and cooperation left Morocco this morning accompanied by the heads of the cultural relations and Europe and America departments at the Foreign Ministry for Romania. He told the Radio Morocco correspondent that the visit falls within the framework of periodic contacts and consultations between the two countries for the evaluation of international relations and the review of mutual cooperation. He expressed the hope that a program of cultural and technical cooperation for the years 1978, 1979 and 1980 will be signed during the visit.

COOPERATION PROTOCOL CONCLUDED WITH POLAND

LD251640Y Rabat MAP in French 1100 GMT 25 Jan 78 LD

[Summary] Rabat--On Tuesday in Rabat Abderrahmane Baddou, Moroccan secretary of state for foreign affairs, and Eugeniusz Kulaga, Polish under secretary of state for foreign affairs, signed a protocol on cultural and scientific cooperation between the two countries.

Speaking on the occasion, Abderrahmane Baddou expressed satisfaction at the signing of the document and explained that it concerned the next 3 years and involved the granting of scholarships, cultural and scientific exchanges, cooperation in the field of information, radio, television and the movie industry.

In reply, the Polish under secretary also expressed satisfaction at the signing of the document.

SUDAN

OPPOSITION LEADER DESCRIBES RECONCILIATION MOVES

LD261826Y Paris AN-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AD-DAWHLI in Arabic 21 Jan 78 p 8 LD

[Sudanese opposition leader As-Sadiq Al-Mahdi interview with AN-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AD-DAWALI in London on 16 January]

[Text] Question: Why are you outside Sudan while parliamentary elections are in progress? Does this mean that you are boycotting the elections?

Answer: I am outside Sudan for specific purposes in connection with the procedures of national reconciliation and for contacts with members of the National Front who are outside Sudan. Another reason for being abroad is to deliver to a publisher manuscripts of my two new books "The Awakening" and "Nutriment."

With regard to the elections, I am not a candidate in them. But there are members of the National Front who are in Sudan and are taking part in the elections, which are not taking place on the basis of a contest between political parties but rather on an individual basis. All those who have applied for candidature have been accepted.

Question: It is being reported that reconciliation plans are facing difficulties. Who is responsible for this and do you believe that it is possible to overcome such difficulties?

Answer: We are going along with the reconciliation. We are trying to find a substitute for violence and coercion. We are also trying to overcome the experience of 8 years of conflict and hatred. Furthermore, we are trying to set an example for the Arab and African countries in which both the multiparty system and the system of tyrannical regimes have failed. The mission we are now undertaking is constructive and historical and, therefore, it cannot be achieved overnight. Nor can it be realized without problems but we have been able to overcome all the problems that we have faced, as President Ja'far Numayri told AL-AYYAM on 16 December 1977. But a problem has emerged because of President Numayri's support for President as-Sadat's trip to Jerusalem which we opposed and condemned. This problem was a test case for the reconciliation process, which stood the test. This is because, despite our clear differences over the subject, we continued the dialog and tried to reach agreement through persuasion.

Question: How did you express your opposition to President as-Sadat's trip to Jerusalem and was this an obstacle to the current dialog with President Numayri, who has a different opinion on the subject?

Answer: I met with President Numayri and stressed to him at the meeting that we consider President as-Sadat's trip an unjustifiable unilateral action which has divided the Arabs, given Israel an advantage and gone a long way toward the conclusion of bilateral peace. I also told him that if by this action President as-Sadat wanted to break the stalemate in the peace problem and if he is facing major domestic problems in Egypt, our situation in Sudan is different. We in Sudan must rather try to advise him, and if he fails to heed our advice we must adopt a stand independent from his and we must do all we can to preserve Arab unity.

I have said this to several Arab newspapers and I discussed it at a seminar with professors of Khartoum University. I noticed that President Numayri listened to my views and had been briefed on what was said in the papers and at the seminar. However, he expressed different views in defense of the trip to Jerusalem. So we both stuck to our stands. Perhaps the coming days will bring about developments that will make my views more convincing and more acceptable.

Question: What is the latest news regarding division within the Sudanese opposition now that Ash-Sharif Husayn al-Hindi and Ahmad Zayn al-'Abidin have been dismissed from membership in the Political Bureau?

Answer: In fact, the reconciliation and all the stages it has been through have been through have been carried out in accordance with unanimous decisions. When we entered Sudan we had been empowered by all our colleagues to conduct a dialog for reconciliation.

But in the meantime Husayn al-Hindi and Zayn al-'Abidin adopted a position contrary to all the decisions which they helped to make. They took part in editing a magazine devoted to attacking the reconciliation and raising doubts about the intentions of the negotiators and praising those who oppose it. This was despite the fact that they were partners in the decision to proceed with it. Therefore, we considered such behavior as irresponsible, particularly since they began hinting at resorting to violence and have been trying to take the Sudanese situation back to the state which we have already left behind. For these reasons we decided not to cooperate with them now or in the future, regardless of which way the reconciliation will go. This is a matter of political behavior and political ethics. Therefore, it is not a question of division in the front or dismissal but, as I have already said, it is a decision that henceforth we will never cooperate with these two men in any political action. This decision has been taken with the approval of all the elements in the front that were cooperating with these two men.

Question: Will you be returning to Sudan shortly?

Answer: Yes, I will be returning and I expect this to be in February to fulfill the missions I mentioned in response to the first question.

TUNISIA

MORE ON UNION UNREST, DEMONSTRATIONS IN TUNIS

Curfew Shortened

LD281530Y Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1208 GMT 28 Jan 78 LL

[Text] We have just received an announcement from the Ministry of the Interior.

Citizens' attention is drawn to the fact that in accordance with the provisions of orders Nos 49, 50 and 51 of 1978 dated 26 January 1978 connected with the state of emergency, the banning of demonstrations, the curfew in Tunis and its suburbs, it has been decided to impose the curfew on individuals and vehicles in Tunis and its suburbs from 2000 instead of 1800 up to 0400 instead of 0500 starting today, Saturday, 28 January 1978 until further notice.

Achour's Arrest Confirmed

LD291712Y Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 29 Jan 78 LD

[Text] An authorized source has confirmed that following judicial investigation about the responsibility of the Tunisian General Union of Labor leadership for the recent events, Habib Achour was arrested at 2030, Saturday, 28 January 1978, at his house at El-Mensah.

Communique Issued on Weapons

LD300034Y Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 29 Jan 78 LD

[Text] The Interior Ministry has issued the following communique: The Interior Ministry urges all citizens legally possessing all kinds of weapons to carefully keep them in safe places, together with their ammunition; and to avoid carrying them in public in the present circumstances, in order that they may not be subjected to perils.

The ministry, on the other hand, urges those who are illegally in possession of weapons to immediately report to the nearest police station or national guard barracks and hand them in. The ministry assures them that it will not implement against them the special law provisions pertaining to unauthorized possession of weapons.

While giving this opportunity to good-intentioned people, the ministry warns all those who would refuse to hand in their weapons against the consequences of their acts; and reminds them that their refusal to hand in their weapons will make them liable to punishment in accordance with the law.

PAPER REPORTS BOURGUIBA APPEAL AGAINST 'SABOTEURS'

LD301515Y Tunis L'ACTION in French 22 Jan 78 p 6 LD

[Unattributed report]

[Text] The following is the text of President Bourguiba's closing speech at the Destourian Socialist Party [PSD] Central Committee meeting:

I do not think much needs to be added to the recommendations included in the Central Committee motion which has just been read. This document faithfully represents the party's orientation. We now know that we have exhausted all possible methods of conciliation which might make the troublemakers see reason and serve the interests of the country hand in had with us. Ulterior motives and harmful influences seem to be at work from inside and outside the country and man's natural tendency to want to increase his income is being exploited. This explains the endless demands for wage rises. People have lost sight of the need to finance the development plan to insure jobs and a decent life for future generations. We must build roads, dams, schools, set up universities and install electricity in the remotest corners of the country and so forth. The state cannot possibly distribute all the national income to the workers. Of course, if the state did this they would be satisfied, but their children and their children's children would be deprived of the barest minimum.

Although our position is quite firm, it is perfectly normal and legitimate. Now that all our attempts to make these misguided people see reason have failed, we must rise and stop the saboteurs. They are using the Tunisian General Union of Labor general secretary as a screen and are cunningly exploiting his influence over the masses. These pseudo-theoreticians, communists and Ba'thists of every shade are using the trade union chief as a cover and, on the pretext of trying to improve the condition of the workers, are trying to undermine the foundations of the state and bring about its collapse. This is what we must guard against. Party vigilance has always managed to overcome crises and difficulties. I hope that nothing will jeopardize our march toward progress and a better standard of living and I am convinced that nothing will since, thanks to Tunisian radio and television, I am able to follow your activities closely and am therefore able to judge the great efforts you are making in the service of the nation.

WESTERN SAHARA

POLISARIO REPORTEDLY SEEKS PEACE WITH MAURITANIA

PA291636Y Paris AFP in English 1624 GMT 29 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Luanda, Jan 29 (AFP)--The Western Sahara independence movement POLISARIO Front has offered to make peace with Mauritania on the basis of mutual respect between the two countries and respect of borders inherited from the colonial era, the daily JORNAL DE ANGOLA reported today.

The offer, addressed to the ruling Mauritanian People's Party [PPM), was contained in a statement from the POLISARIO external relations committee, which was published by the Angolan paper.

The statement, drawn up on January 21, stressed that the "adventure of expansionism (Mauritania and Morocco partitioned the former Spanish Sahara) is the real cause of all the ills suffered by the Mauritanian and Saharan peoples."

The POLISARIO also expressed satisfaction with Gabonese President Omar Bongo, the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) current chairman, to host a special OAU summit on the Western Sahara in Libreville from March 24 to 30.

Stressing the "urgent nature" of this summit, the POLISARIO said that the OAU decision was "a logical answer to French intervention in the problems of our continent."

"Africa cannot tolerate that external forces come to perpetuate colonial rule over a country destined to be free and sovereign" the POLISARIO statement said.

It also denounced "Moroccan maneuvers" aimed at wrecking the upcoming OAU summit and the "use of the crudest blackmail and the threat of war by the Moroccans and Mauritania."

"The Saharan people is unquestionably led by the POLISARIO front for the liberation and independence of the Western Sahara," the statement said.

SPANISH SOCIALIST DELEGATION HAS TALKS WITH POLISARIO

LD201636Y Algiers Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 30 Jan 78 LD

[Summary] Talks were held this morning in Algiers between the representatives of the POLISARIO Front and the Spanish Socialist Workers Party, the PSOE. They exchanged views on the question of the Western Sahara and on the international situation, with emphasis on the Saharan people's fight for independence, according to a PSOE spokesman. The PSOE delegation was headed by Secretary General Felipe Gonzales. The two delegations also reviewed relations between the PSOE and the POLISARIO Front.

The PSOE delegation recalled that the PSOE has been instrumental in the Spanish congress' foreign affairs committee passing a resolution clarifying the question of decolonization of Western Sahara.

The PSOE spokesman denounced the Moroccan-Spanish agreement which would extend Moroccan sovereignty to Saharan territorial waters, and spoke about PSOE's international activity in support of the Saharan people.

The PSOE spokesman also mentioned the results of the Algiers talks between the PSOE and the FLN, and said that the exchange of views had been fruitful. He was optimistic about future relations between the two parties.

BEGIN SAID TO REPLY TO U.S. ON SHILO SETTLEMENT

TA301225Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 30 Jan 78 TA

[Text] Our political correspondent has learned that the United States expressed dismay over the establishment of a settlement in Shilo, through an oral representation to the prime minister from its embassy in Tel Aviv, and not in a written message by President Carter as claimed by the New York TIMES. Our correspondent says that the prime minister has already answered the representation and explained the Israeli position.

BEGIN INTERVIEWED ON TALKS BY RADIO LUXEMBOURG

TA301427Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 30 Jan 78 TA

[Text] Here in Jerusalem the question being asked is when and where the political talks willl get under way following yesterday's decision by the cabinet to resume military negotiations. Prime Minister Menahem Begin had these answers in an interview with Radio Luxembourg. [begin recording]

[Begin] I hope the negotiations within the framework of the Military Committee will start this week. As far as the Political Committee is concerned, we, of course, would like to see them also renewed. And if the other side--the Egyptians--agree, then, of course, the Political Committee will renew its deliberations in Jerusalem--in Jerusalem only. Because President as-Sadat and I agreed at Ismailia that there should be two committees: One will sit in Cairo and the other in Jerusalem. This is justice, and we shall stand by the decision. We don't envisage any further disruption. If it happens, then when we come nearer the bridge, then we'll decide how to cross it. For the time being the negotiations are renewed and let us hope for the best.

[Question] How long will it take, in your opinion?

[Answer] If everything goes well, it should take a few months.

[Question] When you negotiate with Egypt, do you get the feeling that you negotiate with the rest of the Arabic countries?

[Answer] No, we negotiate with Egypt. Egypt cannot speak for Syria, and neither can it speak for Jordan or for the Palestinian Arabs. This we heard from President as-Sadat himself, but we understood that President as-Sadat would like to represent problems which are of general concern to the Arabs. I'd like myself to say that the problem of autonomy for the Palestinian Arabs residing in Judaea, Samaria and in the Gaza district is of moral value. I may call it a Jewish-Arab moral problem. And, therefore, we can and we would like to discuss it with President as-Sadat and, therefore, we agreed. But as far as all the other problems are concerned, when it comes to peace treaties, then we'll conduct the negotiations with the proper countries.

[Question] Let's come to your peace plan. The problem of the Israeli villages--settlements--in the northern Sinai.

[Answer] This is one of the differences of opinion between us, and we should negotiate on it, as it was established at Ismailia. When I came to Ismailia, I presented to President as-Sadat our peace plan, the first part of it concerning Sinai. And I told him--expressly, in clear words--we have settlements there, and we have a principle of self-defense with our settlements. So it was a clear statement made by us to him. He didn't accept it. But the summing up by him was: We shall negotiate.

[Question] Is there a possibility to exchange territories between Israel and Egypt to settle this problem of....

[Answer] There is no such Israeli suggestion about it whatsoever, and there won't be. [end recording]

MILITARY DELEGATION TO LEAVE FOR CAIRO 31 JAN

TA3015402 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 30 Jan 78 TA

[From the Afternoon Newsreel]

[Text] The Israeli delegation to the Military Committee meetings in Egypt will take off for Egypt tomorrow morning. This is reported by our military correspondent Yosi 'Abadi. [begin recording]

['Abadi] The Israeli delegation to the Military Committee meetings will include, in addition to Defense Minister Weizman, Major Gens Avraham Tamir and Shelomo Gazit and the Foreign Ministry representative, Moshe Sasson. Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Zippori and Chief of Staff Gur, who participated in the first round of talks of the committee will not join the present delegation. The defense minister will be joined by his wife, Re'uma, and his son Sha'ul at the invitation of Egyptian War Minister al-Jamasi.

At this stage it seems that three disputed issues between Israel and Egypt will be discussed. The first and gravest issue is that concerning the Yamit region settlements and the airfields of 'Etam and 'Ezyon. Israel demands that they remain as and where they are, defended by the Israeli army, while the Egyptians demand full sovereignty in these regions. Another dispute is over the size of the buffer, demilitarized and limited forces zones. Israel demands that the Egyptian Army not cross the Mitla and Jiddi passes, while Egypt considers the Al-'Arish-Elat line as the frontal line for the Egyptian Army since, in its opinion, it will be able to defend the passes from this line. A third bone of contention is the time to apply peace. Israel wants peace to be imposed immediately on the signing of the agreement while Egypt prefers it to be applied after the Israeli withdrawal from Sinai. Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman will have to discuss these disputed issues in the Military Committee talks that resume tomorrow.

The talks will apparently last until the end of the week, and the delegation will then return to Israel. [end recording]

No New Proposals

TA3014372 Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 30 Jan 78 p 1 TA

[By military correspondent Ze'ev Schiff]

[Text] Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman's delegation to the Military Committee in Cairo will bring no new proposals on the main issues of the Israeli settlements and the demilitarization of Sinai. The main issue that Israel will want to discuss during this round will be demilitarization.

As of yesterday no answer had been received from Egypt on when it intended to renew the deliberations of the Military Committee. A statement of Israel's willingness to renew the deliberations was submitted to Egypt through the Americans after yesterday's cabinet meeting. The cabinet meeting was short, and the cabinet merely stated that it approves the dispatch of the delegation to the Military Committee and that suitable arrangements would be made by the defense minister.

In the wake of the cabinet decision, a question arose about whether conditions in Egypt had changed, enabling Israel to renew the deliberations. As will be recalled, the cabinet decided to suspend the resumption of the talks because of the atmosphere and the attacks against the Jewish people.

In this respect government Secretary Arye Na'or said that Prime Minister Menahem Begin wished to distinguish between the personal attacks against him that have been continuing in the Egyptian press and the attacks against the Jewish people and the State of Israel. While there has been a decline in the anti-Semitic attacks in the Egyptian press, personal criticism has continued, with strong words being used against the prime minister.

As has been said, it was agreed that the guidelines given the defense minister in the past are still valid. Thus, Mr Weizman will not be taking any proposals concerning the settlements in the Rafah salient. It is thought in Israel that the Egyptian position regarding the settlements is not a final one and that public remarks do not accurately reflect the military's position nor that of President as-Sadat.

A central question is what will Egypt wish to discuss as the first clause after the resumption of the talks and will the settlement issue be raised first. In such a case, it can be expected that the talks will come to a dead end rather quickly unless one of the parties comes up with a proposal for a solution that calls for additional deliberations.

For its part, Israel intends primarily to raise the issue of demilitarization and to request that Egypt withdraw its latest proposal submitted to the Military Committee and discuss the original proposal which, according to Begin, President as-Sadat had agreed to and in accordance with which the Egyptian Army would not corss the Mitla and Jiddi lines.

The belief is that the Israeli delegation will leave on Tuesday or Wednesday and will stay in Egypt for 2 or 3 days. The defense minister will be accompanied by Maj Gen Avraham Tamir--who reported here on his talks with leaders of the Egyptian Army--and by the director of military intelligence, Maj Gen Shelomo Gazit. For the time being it has not been decided whether Major General Tamir will remain in Egypt until the defense minister returns again to continue the talks. There is also a trend to cut down the number of journalists reporting on the deliberations of the Military Committee and to limit them to one representative from each newspaper.

Delegation Departs for Cairo

TA310815Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 31 Jan 78 TA

[Text] The Israeli delegation to the Military Committee has now taken off for Cairo. It is headed by Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman and consists of the head of the general staff planning branch, Maj Gen Avraham Tamir, the head of the intelligence branch, Maj Gen Shelomo Gazit, and Moshe Sasson, the Foreign Ministry representative.

The defense minister is accompanied by his wife, Re'uma, and by his son Sha'ul. In about an hour they will be received at Cairo airport by Egyptian War Minister 'Abd al-Ghani al-Jamasi. The committee discussions will start at 1800 tonight.

ATHERTON COMMENTS ON TALKS, LEAVES FOR EGYPT

TA3015157 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 30 Jan 78 TA

[Text] U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Alfred Atherton, has taken off from Israel for Egypt. He is carrying with him Israel's version for the declaration of principles. In Cairo Atherton will examine Egypt's proposals for the declaration of principles and will transmit them to Israel. On Thursday he will fly to Washington to participate in the preparations for the visit there on Saturday of the Egyptian president. Atherton said at Ben-Gurion Airport that his stay in Jerusalem was very useful. The resumption of the deliberations of the Political Committee will depend on the results of the meeting between the U.S. and Egyptian presidents.

KNESSET REJECTS ALINEMENT NO CONFIDENCE MOTION

TA3016147 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 30 Jan 78 TA

[Text] By a majority of 67 against 38, the Knesset rejected the proposal of the Alinement faction to express no confidence in the government because of its budget proposal. The Alinement, Shelli, HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality], Po'aley Agudat Yisra'el and Citizens Rights Movement voted for the proposal. The coalition factions and MK Flatto-Sharon opposed the propsoal.

MINISTER 'AMIT INTERVIEWED ON POLITICAL ISSUES

TA2718077 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 27 Jan 78 p 24 TA

[Interview with Communications and Transport Minister Me'ir 'Amit by Dov Goldstein--date and place not given]

[Excerpt] [Question] Until you entered the government, you used to express yourself very often on security and foreign affairs, and your views were listened to attentively. Since you entered the government you have wrapped yourself in silence. Does this signify total agreement on your part with the prime minister's plan and moves, including the government's decision to delay the resumption of talks in the Military Committee in Cairo?

[Answer] I am not entirely quiet on these subjects, but manifest restraint in expression since I have decided to concentrate on these two complex and problematic offices of mine that really require all my attention, mental power and intellectual energy. This certainly does not mean that I have suddenly become devoid of opinion of foreign and security issues. I express my views in the clearest possible manner in cabinet meetings.

Without violating the rules of secrecy regarding cabinet discussions, rules that are totally acceptable to me, I will say the following: The prime minister's peace plan, which has been accepted by the entire government, is not my life's dream and is not the same as the platform of the party of which I am a part. Yet, basically speaking, I agreed and agree to this plan since it consists of two very important and vital things: the possibility and chance to arrive at peace with Egypt and the certainty that Judaea and Samaria (as far as I am concerned, Judaea and Samaria are regions of first rate defense importance and not emotional importance) will not turn into a base for war against Israel. The prime minister's plan for Judaea and Samaria is what distresses me.

I certainly do not mean to say that Mr Begin's peace plan does not possess limitations and flaws. However, these pale before the chance inherent in Israel's peace plan if it is indeed accepted by Egypt. I also repeat that the matter of the Rafah approaches and land continuity between Elat and Sharm ash-Shaykh are subjects that require further clarification and discussion, and I expect them to be discussed and clarified in the further negotiations with Egypt.

[Question] What do you expect to happen upon the resumption of the negotiations?

[Answer] The Rafah approaches are not a problem of Dunams for Israel. This is a far more basic question. To my regret, our foreign minister said that no territorial exchange will be made with Egypt and the Egyptians are not prepared for this. Under no circumstances would I accept an Egyptian no as a final answer here. There should be readiness on our part to give up areas in the Negev that are not vital for our security in return for extending Israel's sovereignty to the Rafah approaches, which is very vital for our security. I wholly agree with the Egyptian proposal to recognize Egypt's sovereignty over the entire Sinai Peninsula, but the importance of the Rafah approaches compels us to go out of our way in order to refer ourselves to the possibility of a territorial exchange so that we can hold the Rafah approaches.

[Question] Did you bring your proposal before the government?

[Answer] I detailed before the cabinet members several unusual and original thoughts. I cannot go into details. They will not be accepted by the government. They demand an unusual framework of thinking.

[Question] Did you support the decision to postpone the military talks with Egypt?

[Answer] The cabinet decision does not speak of the postponement or suspension of the talks, and this is not accidental. The decision is very carefully worded and was given thorough consideration. It says that the talks will be postponed until the proper atmosphere is created. Additional discussions will be held. We must make every effort in order to renew the talks and not break this thread. We must not break it.

[Question] Did you take part regularly and promptly in the consolidation of the Israeli peace plan, or did the prime minister present you with a fait accompli after he detailed his plan to President Carter and the vice president, before U.S. senators, former President Ford, Dr Henry Kissinger, the British prime minister and the French president while you and the other ministers were requested (politely, I assume) to applaud it?

[Answer] As is well known, I am not a member of the ministerial committee for security affairs that dealt with the plan before it was brought to the attention of the personages you have mentioned. One of the key people of our movement, Professor Yadin, took part in the committee discussions, and I am sure he expressed our views. "You push me into a corner a little" with this list of personages who learned of the plan before I learned of it...There is no escape but to discuss secret and sensitive matters first in a very limited circle and later in the cabinet plenum, but on the condition that no decision is taken before the entire government discusses and approves it.

[Question] What value does such a discussion have when it is held after the prime minister had already disclosed his plan to so many personages outside Israel?

[Answer] You are right. Taking the plan outside before the government discussed it and took its decision was wrong. I was not satisfied with this.

[Question] What is the meaning of the decision you took in the Democratic Movement for Change [DMC] as part of the agreement for preventing a split according to which the DMC ministers will present the DMC position in the government "in an energetic manner," especially on the issues of peace and promoting negotiations with Egypt? Does it mean that so far you have presented these positions in a compromising or sloppy manner for fear that you may arouse the anger of the prime minister and that now you will brace yourselves, will not fear any longer and will struggle for your positions?

[Answer] Your interpretation is totally wrong. We have presented our positions resolutely and decisively to date, without fear, and we also have influenced the government's decisions in the operational sphere. However, the DMC power does not lie only in the participation of its ministers in the government despite the fact that they have considerable weight in its composition. Its real power lies in its being able to say at a certain moment: "Our colleague the prime minister, only so far; we cannot take nay more," and leave the government leaning on a small and unstable majority with which the state cannot be run. The question that troubled members in the DMC was not with regard to the past. They openly asked us: "How and when will you decide to materialize this force? What is your casus belli? What will cause you to break up the partnership and withdraw?" This is exactly the meaning of the words "energetic manner" in the decision.

[Question] Well, then, what will cause you to break up the partnership?

[Answer] The breaking point is very hard to tell....

[Question] Have there already been thoughts about it to date?

[Answer] No, there certainly has been no need for that.

[Question] What do you think of Yadin's leadership? Is it democratic, tolerant? Does it encourage free expression or does it have the flaw of arrogance and the attempt to smother views that do not agree with his?

[Answer] Before asking questions about Yadin, one should know that he is experiencing very hard times. I do not envy the man who has to lead a heterogeneous company such as ours, without a common past. The term democracy is used very liberally by us, and Yadin has no choice but to use a firm hand sometimes.

[Question] I wanted to ask you exactly the same question also regarding Prime Minister Begin....

[Answer] He radiates authority, presents every subject stubbornly and thoroughly. He has rich political experience and unusual power of speech and analysis. No, he lets others express themselves and is not arrogant.

[Question] And what happens when one expresses views which are opposed to his?

[Answer] Ah, he does not like this, does not like this very much....

[Question] Does he express his dislike?

[Answer] Yes, he does express it.

[Question] How?

[Answer] In various forms. Do I have to go into detail?

FOUNDATIONS OF DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES REPORTED

TA301218Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 30 Jan 78 p 1 TA

[By 'Uzzi Benziman]

[Text] The declaration of principles, whose formulation has been under discussion the past few days between Israel and Egypt, grants the Palestinian residents of Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip--together with other elements--a partnership in the determination of their future. The additional elements that will participate in the determination of the future of the Palestinians are Egypt, Jordan and Israel.

The following foundations are included in the declaration of principles:

--Both parties will establish relations of peace in accordance with a peace treaty that is to be signed by them.

--A withdrawal of Israeli forces from territories occupied in 1967 to borders which are secure to and recognized by all parties will be implemented.

--The establishment of peace and the deployment of forces will be implemented in accordance with Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

--A solution will be found to the Palestinian problem. The solution will recognize the rights of the residents of Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip to participate in deliberations over the determination of their future, in which Israel, Egypt and Jordan will also participate.

The above-mentioned foundations do not represent the exact formulation of the declaration of principles which was consolidated recently. However, they do manifest its principles. The proposal for the declaration of principles was submitted by the American delegation headed by Alfred Atherton and was prepared by the Israeli team led by Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan. The Americans intimated to Israel that the draft formula manifests their views. However, the Israeli team discussed them on the assumption that the United States--in its formulas--was also presenting the Egyptian position.

The proposal was formally submitted by the United States with Israel's authorizing it to do so, and Egyptian reaction to it is now being awaited. It is thought that the Egyptian response will be given to Atherton, who is leaving for Cairo today.

JERUSALEM REPORTS CIA REPORT ON NUCLEAR BOMBS

TA281730Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 28 Jan 78 TA

[Text] The U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, the CIA, states that there was an administrative error when a report saying that Israel possesses nuclear bombs was issued for publication a few days ago. This document said that in the CIA evaluation Israel had already produced nuclear weapons.

The proof is the great quantity of uranium Israel had purchased and the great investments it had sunk into batteries of sophisticated missiles with modern warheads. The CIA spokesman said today that there had been a mistake. Some of the material in the report should have remained classified. He said that he would not comment further than this.

Press Reaction to Report

TA291556 [Editorial Report TA] All major Israeli dailies appearing on 29 January featured reports about the release of a 1974 CIA report stating that Israel has produced nuclear weapons. The reports carried by the Israeli press consist largely of factual reporting of the story and rely heavily on foreign press agency accounts. They contain little or no commentary. No comments by official Israeli sources are cited. None of the Israeli dailies carried any editorial comment on the report.

NEW SETTLEMENTS TO BE ESTABLISHED ON WEST BANK

TA302010Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 30 Jan 78 TA

[Text] Three military footholds that will be turned into new settlements in the future have recently been set up in Judaea and Samaria. Our correspondent for settlement affairs Yig'al Goren reports that these footholds were set up in accordance with a government decision and with the approval of the Kneseet Foreign Affairs and Security Committee. One foothold was set up in Tapu'ah, about 10 km south of Nabulus, a second was set up in Silat az-Zahr, northwest of Nabulus, and a third was set up in Hares, east of the Elqanah settlement.

Our correspondent remarks that, according to plan, Hares and Tapu'ah will be urban centers in the heart of Samaria, near a road that will cross Samaria, the paving of which was endorsed by the ministerial committee for settlement affairs. Our correspondent has also learned that the possibility of doubling the number of settlements in Judaea and Samaria in the coming year is being examined in the Agriculture Ministry.

KNESSET MEMBERS TOUR SOUTHERN SETTLEMENTS

NC291214Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 29 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Twenty Knesset members, representatives of five committees, are now touring the Yamit region. After visiting the Diklah settlement, the chairman of the Likud faction, Knesset Member Avraham Sharir, said that he is even more convinced now that the region must remain within Israeli sovereignty and that there should certainly be no talk about the dismantling of settlements. Knesset Member Danny Rosolio, from the Labor faction, also said that Israel should insist that, in the framework of the agreement with Egypt, the Yamit region should remain within its sovereignty. Both were talking to our correspondent Shmu'el Tal.

JORDAN SAID TO SHIFT TOWARD EGYPTIAN POSITION

TA282129Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 28 Jan 78 TA

[Text] Jordan has canceled censorship on weeklies and papers from Egypt. This comes at the height of the attacks on Syria in these papers. To date Jordan has been in the habit of deleting or cutting out parts of these weeklies containing attacks on Syria or on Jordan. Syria, as opposed to this, completely stopped importing papers from Egypt at the time of As-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem.

Circles in east Jerusalem told our correspondent that it may be that the cancellation of censorship in Jordan signals the begining of a change in Jordan's position toward President as-Sadat's policy. Recently reports have reached Judaea and Samaria to the effect that with the change in line the government of Jordan will also change. Mudar Badran, the current prime minister, who supports Jordan's link with Syria, will be replaced with a politician who will signal a move toward Egypt. The candidates who can be considered are Zayd ar-Rifa'i, Bahuat al-Talhuni and 'Abd al-Mun'im ar-Rifa'i. The status of Palestinian Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah will also be advanced since if he joins the political move he will symbolize Jordan's link with the Palestinian problem. 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah today is the minister in charge of Judaean and Samarian affairs. Our correspondent Pinhas 'Inbari points out that of the three candidates Zayd ar-Rifa'i has the least chance, since his name is linked with great financial scandals. He is also not accepted by the Saudi Arabian Government because of one of those scandals.

Jordanian spokesmen have recently been emphasizing in talks with inhabitants of Judaea and Samaria that Jordan is not aiming at this stage at the return of the West Bank. Its present objective is that there should be an interim period of up to 5 years, at the end of which the inhabitants of Judaea and Samaria will decide for themselves with whom to link their future.

WEST BANK PERSONAGES RECEIVE MURDER THREATS

TA311058Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 31 Jan 78 p 2 TA

[By Yehuda Litani]

[Text] Letters threatening murder have recently been sent to two senior personabes in the West Bank and east Jersusalem who are known to be supporters of Jordan. The letters, signed by unknown organizations, say that the two have been sentenced to death and that they will be murdered.

The HA'AREZ correspondent has learned that the Israeli authorities have been informed of the murder threats and have decided to maintain vigilance on the issue.

Security elements pointed out yesterday that there is no apparent connnection between the murder of the Dan bus driver Mordekhay Yequ'el (the day before yesterday near Ramallah), the murders of senior local officials in the military government and the two murder threats.

There was an additional attempted murder at the end of last week in Ramallah when a youth tried to murder a local taxi driver who is known for his ties with the military government.

Security elements said that over the past few weeks there has been a worrisome increase in domestic terror in the West Bank and it appears that this process is at its height. The murders and attempted murders that have taken place until now have been directed against people who have worked in the administration or against residents suspected of cooperating with Israel.

The murder threats against personalities known as supporters of Jordan is something new, say these elements.

EXPLOSIVE CHARGE DETONATED IN NABULUS; NO DAMAGE

TA301857Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 30 Jan 78 TA

[Text] A sabotage charge was discovered near a pickup point for soldiers at Bet Ya'aqov in Nabulus today. The charge was detonated and no damage was caused.

EGYPTIAN VICE PRESIDENT COMMENTS ON VISIT

LD301718Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1600 GMT 30 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Before his departure from Teheran today, Egyptian Vice President Husni Mubarak said about the purpose of his visit to Iran: As always my visit to Iran stems from the close and sincere friendship between the shah and His Excellency President Anwar as-Sadat and from the very friendly relations between the Iranian and Egyptian peoples.

Mr Husni Mubarak said: Since the restoration of friendship between Iran and Egypt, the Egyptian president has tried to brief the shah of Iran fully on developments. The Middle East problem is the issue at the moment, and, as you know, peace negotiations began thanks to His Excellency Anwar as-Sadat's initiative. Thus, the Egyptian president decided wholeheartedly to brief his brother fully on all developments.

The Egyptian vice president said that he visited Teheran to submit a report to the shah on the proceedings of the Joint Egyptian-Israeli Political Committee and on the reason the Egyptian delegation was withdrawn from Jerusalem. In answer to a question on whether there is a possibility of resuming the military talks in Cairo, Mr Husni Mubarak said: In general we have not broken off the talks, for we have left the door open to achieving peace and finding a comprehensive solution to the Middle East.

On the forthcoming visit to the United States by the Egyptian president, the Egyptian vice president said: After the failure of the political talks in Jerusalem and the withdrawal of the Egyptian delegation, Jimmy Carter asked the Egyptian president to meet him.

Our correspondent said: It is said that as a result of Atherton's efforts, the gap between Egypt and Israel has narrowed. Mr Husni Mubarak said: Nothing new can be expected before the meeting between the Egyptian and U.S. presidents.

Concludes Visit

LD301538Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1500 GMT 30 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Egyptian Vice President Husni Mubarak left Teheran this afternoon after a brief stopover and an audience with the shah. A message from Egyptian President His Excellency Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat was delivered to the shah during the Egyptian vice president's audience.

CIVILIAN CHARGED WITH SPYING; SHAH DEFERS EXECUTION

LD291100Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1000 GMT 29 Jan 78 LD

[Text] The following announcement has been issued by the armed forces tribunal office:

As our dear countrymen have been informed by the mass media, the civilian Ali-Naqi Rabani Quldeh, charged with spying for foreigners, was tried. On the basis of the investigations carried out as well as the verdicts issued by ordinary courts and the Military Court of Appeal, the verdicts were upheld and he was sentenced to death. However, according to an order issued by the shah, the sentence has been deferred.

INDIA

YUGOSLAV VICE PRESIDENT ARRIVES IN DELHI 31 JAN

BK311242Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 31 Jan 78 BK

[Text] The Yugoslav vice president, Mr Stevan Doronjski, arrived in New Delhi a short while ago on an official visit. He was received at the airport among others by the vice president, Mr Jatti.

CPI-M DRAFT RESOLUTION ASSAILS USSR, PRC POLICIES

BK301647Y Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 24 Jan 78 p 5 BK

[EXPRESS news service]

[Text] Calcutta, Jan 23--A hardline attitude towards China, a softer one towards the CPI [Communist Party of India], an identification of "honest and fighting elements" among the Naxalites are some of the highlights of the CPI-M's [Communist Party of India-Marxist] new policy to be adopted at the 10th party congress in April.

The draft political resolution, formulated by the Central Committee of the party and released for discussions among party members at all levels, also differentiates the socialists and young turks in the Janata Party from other sections.

While the former as also those in the Congress who "welcomed the exit of the caucus and its followers from the party" are listed as possible allies of the left and democratic forces, the draft castigates the Janata Party as "reflecting the same interests as the previous government" and also adopting the same economic policies in relation to the masses.

It says "the antidemocratic and reactionary" elements in the Janata Party "openly took a violent anticommunist posture and were in the forefront of slandering our party and the West Bengal government led by us. They refused to condemn the semifascist terror direct against us in West Bengal."

The party's call is obviously for "replacement of both the Congress and the Janata Party by an alliance of the left and democratic alternative political power."

Both the CPI and the Naxalites are included in the list of "left and democratic forces" for common struggle. About Naxalites, the resolution says they were the "victims of wrong international guidance" and their "desperation and ideological war" waywardness are a product of the present desperate situation in the country, of the intense frustration felt by the wide sections of the petty bourgeois.

"Though they still concentrate their fire against us rather than against the ruling classes and are prepared to join hands with any party against us and play a disruptive role in the mass movement, our party must constantly endeavour to claim the honest and fighting elements among them to the common struggle, to strengthen the left and democratic forces," it says.

About the two communist "big brothers", the draft says the Soviet Communist Party is pursuing its revisionist policies, while the Chinese have come out with a dangerous thesis of "three worlds", characterising the Soviet Union as a socialist-imperialist power and identifying it as its main enemy and supporting the ASEAN and the U.S. presence in the Indian Ocean. These positions, it asserts, are "totally untenable and have nothing to do with Marxism-Leninism."

The resolution says: "The policy pursued by these two ruling parties of subordinating the development of the revolutionary forces in the underdeveloped countries to the opportunistic needs of their governments' foreign policy has greatly harmed the democratic struggle of the people."

GANDHI NOMINATES MEMBERS FOR WORKING COMMITTEE

BK271621Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Jan 78 BK

[Text] Mrs Indira Gandhi has nominated six members to the working committee of the breakaway group of the Congress led by her. They are Mr Devaraj Urs, Dr Channa Reddy, Mr Zail Singh, Mr Madho Singh Sulanki, Mr A.R. Antoley and Mr Pranab Kumar Mukherjee. Seven elected seats in the committee are still vacant.

Nominations to the parliamentary board have also been announced. Besides Mrs Gandhi, the board includes Mr Kamlapati Tripathi, Mr Mir Qashim, Mr P.V. Narshimha Rao and Mr A.P. Sharma.

The general secretary of the group, Mr Bhuta Singh, said in New Delhi that the central election committee of his group will meet in Bangalore tomorrow to finalize the list of candidates for the coming assembly election.

GANDHI'S GROUP TO BE TREATED AS INDEPENDENTS

BK311104Y Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 31 Jan 78 BK

[Text] Candidates of the breakaway group of the Congress led by Mrs Indira Gandhi will be treated as independents and given free symbols in the forthcoming assembly elections. The chief election commissioner, Mr S.L. Shakdher, told the AIR [All-India Radio] correspondent that the breakaway group has not so far approached him for recognition as an all-Indian party nor have they asked for allotment of any alternative symbol following his ruling on the 23d of this month [in the election symbol case].

PAKISTAN

PAKISTAN RADIO COMMENTS ON UPCOMING VAJPAYEE VISIT

BK271049Y Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 26 Jan 78 BK

[Text] Official circles in Islamabad have indicated that although the coming visit to Pakistan of the Indian foreign minister, Mr Vajpayee, is a good-will one, the two sides are expected to have an exchange of views on international questions and bilateral relations. Since this is a goodwill visit, formal talks will be held for a very limited period.

Radio Pakistan's representative understands that Pakistan shall point out at these formal talks that all provisions of the Simla agreement have been implemented except the provision which calls for discussions between the two sides on the Kashmir problem. Pakistan will ask that this subject should now be taken up, as it feels that true normalization of relations between the two countries can come only after this dispute has been resolved.

Our representative, quoting official sources, says that the Indian Foreign Office has denied newspaper reports that Mr Vajpayee intends offering Pakistan transit facilities for its trade with Nepal and Bangladesh in return for similar facilities for India's trade with Afghanistan and Iran. India has also denied reports that Mr Vajpayee might raise the question of a common market between Iran, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh and Afghanistan and simplification of the visa procedure. The Indian Foreign Office has informed the Pakistan Embassy that Mr Vajpayee is not taking any package proposal to Pakistan. It is emphasized that this would be a goodwill visit with no specific agenda, though any item of interest may come up for discussion.

As regards transit facilities, the official circles have pointed out that Pakistan's rail and road systems in their present condition are hardly able to cope with their own communication requirements. They would need extensive modernization and expansion before any additional burden can be placed on them. It is visualized that an expenditure of several billion dollars over a considerable length of time would be required before this objective could be met.

The official circles say Pakistan does not have a full picture of what is visualized in the Common Market proposal. They, however, feel that as Iran, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh and Afghanistan are passing through varying stages of economic development, it will be an extremely difficult proposition for them to have the kind of market stipulating not only the total abolition of all duties on traded commodities but also free movement of capital and labor. These circles point out that even in the RCD [Regional Cooperative Development], where Pakistan is grouped together with two other countries on a similar stage of economic development, the proposal for a reduction of some tariffs between them has not been implemented yet because of the many difficulties which have arisen.

As regards the simplification of the visa procedure, the official circles pointed out that Pakistan has already streamlined its procedures for the issuance of visas to Indians wishing to visit Pakistan to meet their relatives or for other specified purposes. Pakistan's Embassy in New Delhi is handling approximately 300 to 400 visa applications a day. Some delays do take place, but considering the volume handled, these are inevitable. There are also problems associated with the issuance of Indian visas to Pakistanis wishing to visit India. The Indian Embassy has now got some additional staff, and the difficulties previously faced by applicants in Karachi and elsewhere would be greatly alleviated now.

Radio Pakistan's representative understands that the invitation to Mr Vajpayee was extended after he indicated at a public meeting in Ujjain that he wished to visit Pakistan. Pakistan could not ignore such a request, particularly in view of the fact that India's new government has adopted a correct attitude of noninterference in Pakistan's internal affairs since the change of government in July last year. Mr Vajpayee's visit will be the first ministerial-level visit since Mr P.N. Haksar came to Pakistan as the personal envoy of the then Indian prime minister in 1973 and the first foreign minister's visit since Mr Swaran Singh's visit in 1966.

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